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# Huskies Illustrated

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*Inside:*

- Mike Stigge
- Scouting OSU
- Game of the Century  
Part II

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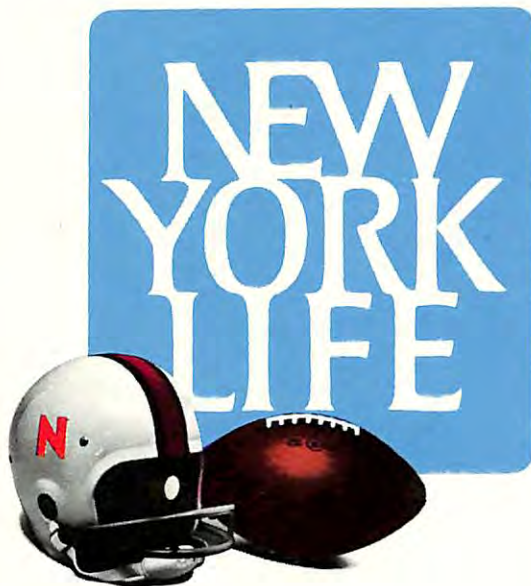
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## TEAMLINE

I would like to write to the Husker fans out there in Huskerland. My comments concern why the University of Nebraska refuses to allow TEAMLINE to handle the coverage of the radio broadcasts of the games? I, being a Nebraska native, have followed the Cornhuskers since I was a kid. I have watched, listened to radio broadcasts and attended every game I could possibly get to. This takes much effort since I reside in Telford, Penn. At one

point I used to call my grandfather in Omaha and he'd put the phone to the radio and I'd listen long distance. Anyway TEAMLINE can bring a game to me for about \$40, which is very affordable. Unfortunately the University of Nebraska refuses to sign up with the service. The ironic thing about this is that after the first two games this year all of Nebraska's opponents have signed up to the service and I'll be able to listen to the games anyway (although I'll have to listen to the opponent's

announcers). But now Nebraska will not get a penny of the royalties. I hope this letter gets published, because I would like to see how other long distance fans feel.

Anthony Smith  
Telford, Penn.

## VIDEO HUNTING

I am writing to find out how I can get a video copy of the 1984 Orange Bowl game between Nebraska and Miami. It needs to be a VHS tape. If anybody can help me in some way I'd appreciate it. I'd be glad to send a blank tape if needed.

Corey Schlachter

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## AWARDING STRENGTH

A friend of mine said that there was an award given to the strongest player on the Nebraska team each year. Is that really true and if it is, who was the last guy to win it? Steve Hackler  
Oklahoma City, Okla.

*Steve: Nebraska does give an award each year, but it is awarded to the player who has shown the greatest dedication in improvement in the Cornhuskers' strength and conditioning program. It is called the Nebraska Lifter of the Year award.*

*Linebacker Mike Anderson was the 1991 winner and was the first linebacker to win the award in its 18-year history. Anderson improved from 279 to 391 pounds in the bench press, and recorded a lift of 552 pounds in the squat. — Ed.*



Mike Anderson



2806 Av., M Apt. B  
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### INTIMIDATED

Now I have heard it all. In a story in the *Fort Collins Coloradoan*, Earle Bruce was quoted as saying, "I thought we were intimidated by 76,000 monsters in red (in reference to the crowd at Memorial Stadium when Nebraska hosted Colorado State this season). I don't know how we'll play this week, but I do know we won't be intimidated by a crowd of 20,000."

If anyone intimidated the Rams it was Bruce himself, fretting over the contest's mismatched opponents within earshot of reporters. Can you imagine donning a CSU uniform on game day after reading how your own coach doesn't even want to play the game?

We made the trek back to Lincoln for the game. After having been born and raised a Husker, I was surprised at the difficult time I had rooting against my present hometown Rams. After reading this article my respect for Earle Bruce has plummeted.

Regarding the Washington-Ne-

braska game, we were indeed sorely disappointed, but not to the point of trading in our Husker paraphernalia. Keep the faith while Coach Osborne perfects that passing attack.

Brenda Rader Mross  
Fort Collins, Colo.

### RAH, RAH

I'm a Nebraska native who has lived in the state of Washington for about 17 years (except 1978-80). I've also subscribed to your GREAT magazine since your premier issue. I am very thankful to have a great coach in Dr. Tom Osborne, his wonderful staff and the best fans in the world. Nebraska may not be the best team in the nation this year, but they are the greatest team ever.

Rick Bonacci  
Coupeville, Wash.

### SAND BICKERING

I read in the local newspapers how the Illinois players and coaches were griping after the Illini lost to Missouri in Columbia on Sept. 14. Some of the players were saying how horrible the field was and how the sand seemed to

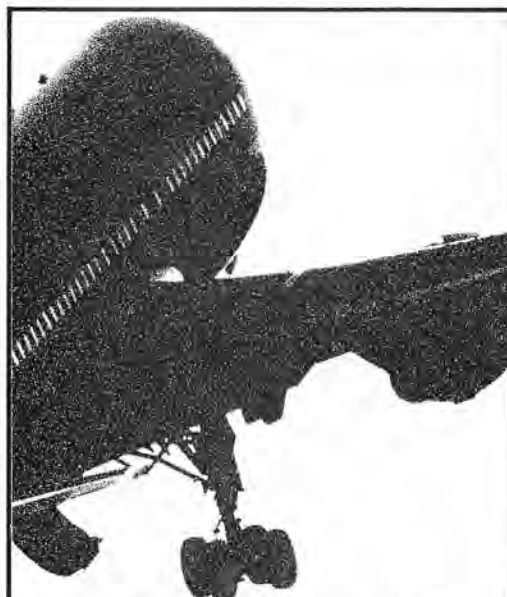
stop them from performing to the best of their abilities. The coaches made it sound like the turf was more responsible for the win than the Missouri players themselves. Give me a break.

Nebraska has never had any problems in Columbia with the turf or the Tigers themselves. Bill McCartney whined about the turf after his Buffs won (or should I say lost) last season at Mizzou. OU Coach Gary Gibbs griped about the condition of the field even though his Sooners ripped the Tigers last year. I don't understand what good it does to whine about the field. All that does is make a mental impression on the players that the field is going to be bad and consequently they will have problems adjusting to it. Coach Osborne lets things like that take care of themselves. He's got the right attitude, unlike McCartney and Gibbs. Maybe that's why he is the best coach in the nation.

Phil Jefferson  
Chicago, Ill.

### COLLECTIBLES

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that a Rick Kelsey of Arlington, Texas was interested in a set of drinking glasses with football team logos and the results of that particular team's football games on the back.

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#### THINK BEFORE YOU YELL

I have been a big Nebraska fan for the last 20 years and I haven't given up on them yet. There may be a lot of people out there calling for Coach Osborne's job, but maybe they should ask themselves who they would get to replace him. Remember when you get rid of a coach as popular and successful as Osborne, the program will probably suffer. Just look at what happened to Oklahoma when it lost Barry Switzer. They haven't been the same since.

I say let's stop complaining about the man and get behind him. Go Huskers.

Terry Ray  
Lincoln, Neb.

#### RETIRING NUMBERS

Over the years Nebraska has had a lot of great players. Only schools like Notre Dame, UCLA and USC have probably had more. But with all of the great players to wear a Husker uniform, I was wondering how many have had their jerseys retired? I'm sure there are a lot of other people out there that would like to know also. Thanks for your help.

John Long  
Omaha, Neb.

*John: While there is no question there have been plenty of great players at Nebraska, retiring all of their jerseys would leave Coach Osborne with a lot of duplicate numbers. So far only six jerseys have been retired. 1983 Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier (No. 30) and Outland/Lombardi Trophy recipient Dean Steinkuhler (No. 71) were the last players to have jerseys retired. The other four players are Tom Novak (No. 60), Johnny Rodgers (No. 20), Rich Glover (No. 79) and Dave Rimington (No. 50).*

*Novak's jersey was retired follow-*



**Dave Rimington**

*ing the 1949 season after "Train Wreck" had been a four-time All-Big Seven choice as either a fullback or center and a 1949 All-American. Rodgers' and Glover's jerseys were retired following the 1972 season after Rodgers had won the Heisman and Glover had become the first of three Huskers to win both the Outland and Lombardi Trophies. Rimington's jersey was retired after the All-American center had won two Outland Trophies and the 1982 Lombardi. — Ed.*

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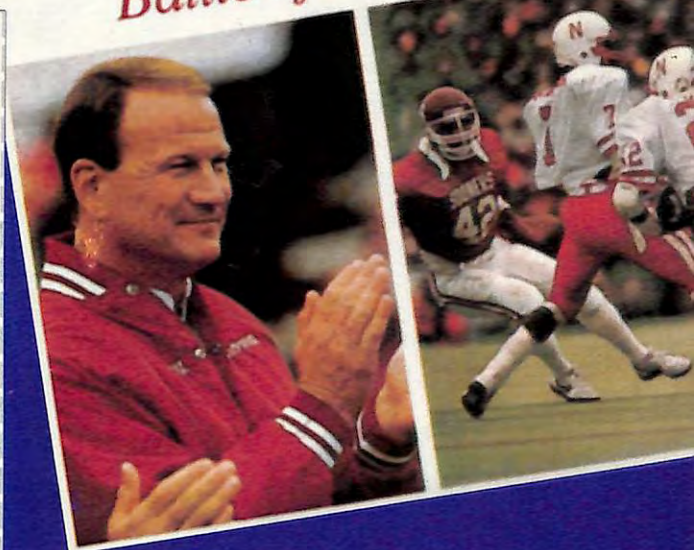
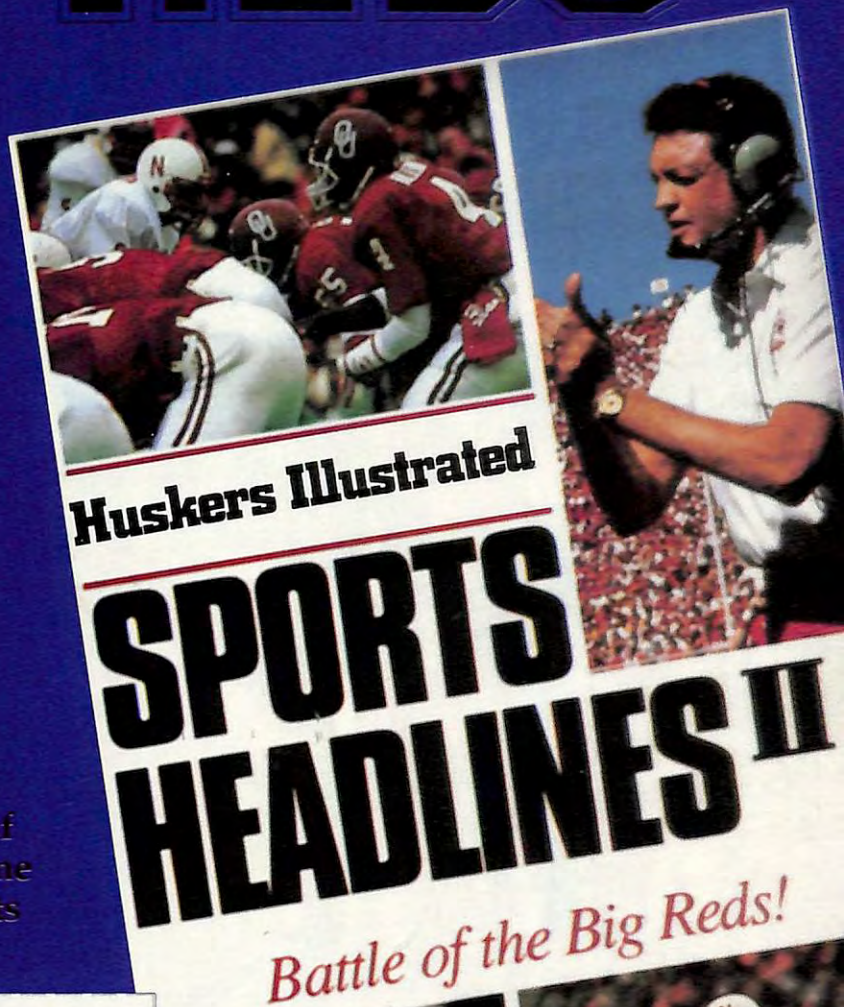
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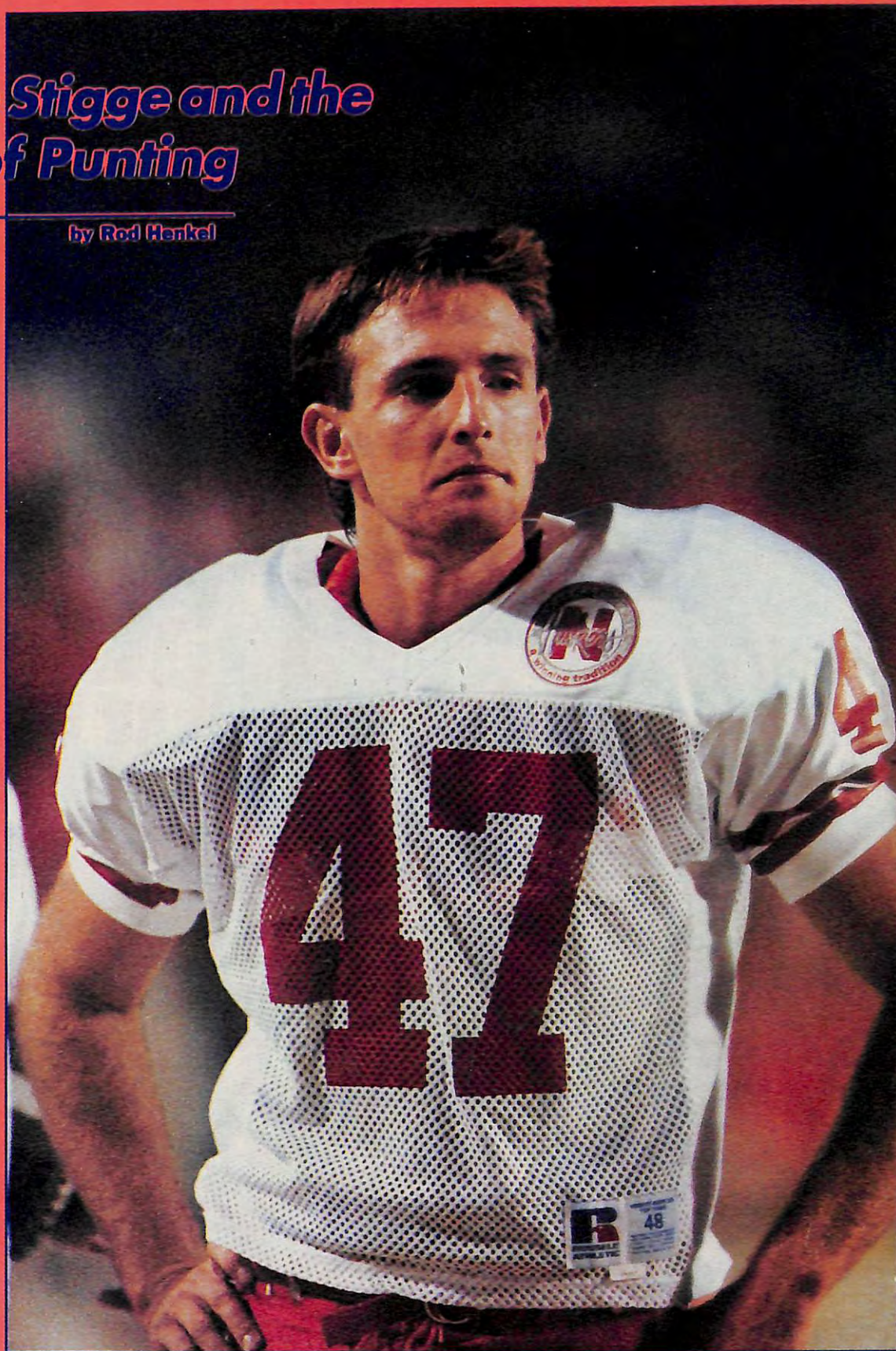
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# *Mike Stigge and the Art of Punting*

by Rod Henkel

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The 1989 Colorado game marked both the lowlight of Mike Stigge's Nebraska football career and the time he began to develop as one of the nation's best punters.

Stigge, a Husker junior from Washington, Kan., ranked 21st in the country among NCAA Division I-A punters last season and would have been 11th-best after three games in 1991 had he played in them all.

It took a discouraging experience that November afternoon in Boulder, however, for Stigge to learn how best to approach the art of punting.

The Buffaloes returned two punts for big yardage to set up short touchdown drives in a 27-21 CU win that sent Colorado to the Orange Bowl and a co-National Championship, while Nebraska settled for the Sunkist Fiesta Bowl.

"I wasn't real pleased with myself on those. I could have had better punts," Stigge says. "I carried that on my shoulders awhile, then I put it aside."

Stigge took it personally when Colorado made the long returns. He became more determined.

"If you kick the ball halfway decent and high, they shouldn't get much of a return against you," says Stigge. "It's up to the kicker to see that doesn't happen. If you have a decent punt, you should be able to cover it easily."

Nebraska finished the 1990 season with the ninth-best net punting team mark in the NCAA, with Stigge averaging 40.4 yards a punt and opponents managing 2.2 per return opportunity.

Stigge averaged just 35.9 yards on nine punts through four games a year ago before reverting to what he learned at Boulder during his freshman season: Relax and don't worry about the kick.

The two-time Husker letterman remembers that early in the 1990 season, he wanted to start the year off well and hoped to average 45 yards a kick. "It didn't happen and I started worrying about it," Stigge says.

He came back in the Big Eight opener at Kansas State to average 47.7 yards on six kicks and his successful sophomore campaign was underway.

"At Kansas State, we weren't doing that well, and I told myself I had to take control," Stigge says. "I got

out there and kicked the ball. From then on, I totally relaxed."

For that reason punters cannot share all the enthusiasm and excitement other football players enjoy during high moments of a game, according to Stigge.

Punters, like kickers, try to remain calm.

"You've got to find your place in that," Stigge says. "You can't get too fired up like the rest of the players. You have to find your certain intensity level and stay right there."

If a punter gets too psyched up, every game will result in an emotional roller coaster ride. "It's kind of bad because you have one chance that lasts about two seconds and you're done," Stigge says. "You really never know when you're going to go in."

Husker coaches never called Stigge's number during either of the first two games this season against Utah State and Colorado State because the offense rolled up unbelievable statistics.

Stigge saw action in both contests, but only as a holder on kicks before having a busy night against Washington. Stigge punted nine times for a 44.3-yard average against the Huskies, including a career-best 68-yard punt that pinned Washington at its 2, to more than offset the two early no-shows.

"I don't care if I don't get to kick. I didn't mind," Stigge says. "That goes with the position. Sitting out two games I don't think affected me that much."

Although Stigge did not punt for two games, and during a normal contest might see action only three or four times, he still considers himself as much a Cornhusker as the next player.

"I feel like a big part of the team. You have to take pride in what you do and do it well," he says. "Kicking is a big part."

His teammates feel the same way.

"We kid him, but we really know he's important to the team," said strong safety Steve Carmer, Stigge's roommate. "We know he's an excellent punter. He handles pressure well."

Stigge took on the extra duty of holding when coaches asked him if he was interested in the job, in order to get more playing time.

A high school quarterback and running back, Stigge occasionally

imagines contributing to the Husker effort in a more noticeable way.

"A kicker mostly stands on the sideline," he says. "A lot of times I want to get in there and do things. I want to be a real football player."

Because of his position, Stigge is on the end of frequent jokes about not being a real player.

Carmer said some Husker teammates "jump all over" Stigge because it's fun to give him a bad time. "He's got some good comebacks."

Stigge does fondly recall the one game when he did fill the role of more than simply a punter.

Stigge surprised Florida State with a fake punt four plays into the 1990 Fiesta Bowl when he hit Mark Dowse with a 41-yard pass to the Seminoles' 22. FSU was also hit with a roughing-the-passer penalty on the play, and three downs later, Gerry Gdowski threw a 9-yard touchdown pass to Morgan Gregory for a short-lived 7-0 Husker lead.

To better that highlight, Stigge would some day like to recover a fumble on a punt return and take it in for a touchdown.

He thinks about making a big play on a fake punt, but will run on a punt only if it's a called fake or if he receives a bad snap.

"There are times I look up and see nothing but green over there," he says. "Then I think, 'No, wake up, just kick it.' You always want to do it. You think you can. But usually the defense is pretty ready for it. Plus, I don't think Coach (Dan Young) would appreciate it too much."

Stigge has the athletic ability to successfully execute fake punts.

At Washington (Kan.) High School, Stigge was an all-state defensive back plus he played quarterback and handling kicking and punting duties for Coach Alan Beam. He lettered four times each in football and track and three times in basketball.

"It's always good to have an athlete out there because a lot of things happen pretty quick, like 10-man blocks," Young said. "He's kind of a versatile athlete. He's just a heady player."

"He's dependable. He's not a guy who's going to forget to come out on the field."

Stigge grew up on a farm near the community of about 1,400 residents and his three older sisters, two of





## Stigge handles the mental part...just prior to the Arizona State kickoff.

says. "You always try to see yourself in a game situation. I try to visualize them coming at me."

Young credits Stigge's decision to remain in Lincoln during the summer for his improvement in 1991. The assistant coach also said Stigge entered fall camp knowing the punting job was his—hence, increased confidence.

Stigge strives for consistency in his punting and Young says he has done that.

"He's developed a lot of consistency from last year to this year," Young says. "His hang time is better, his distance is better and he's a lot more confident in himself and his ability than he's ever been before."

Stigge's two-step kicking style is an advantage, according to Young.

"He gets the ball off so fast, he could probably kick the ball and we wouldn't have to block for him," Young says. "We can have one or two guys miss their blocks and he still gets the ball off."

Traditionally, Nebraska fans have frequently and brutally criticized Husker punters and Stigge is aware of that.

The flack from supporters, like from teammates, comes with the position.

"Punters kind of take some abuse," Stigge says. "I think, 'Geez, I hope they're not saying that about me.' You can't worry about what the fans think."

And Stigge can mentally handle criticism.

The pre-veterinary major carries a 3.615 grade point average. Last season he earned Phillips 66 Academic All-Big Eight honors and was a GTE Academic All-District selection.

"I came here to get an education. You never know if you're going to get to play here," Stigge says.

Stigge envisions attending Kansas State's veterinary school upon completion of his football eligibility and practicing somewhere in the Midwest.

But for now, he's going to relax and concentrate on punting. Many fans won't think much about the kicking game until something bad happens. Stigge will.

"A lot of people think you take it for granted," he says. "Being a punter, you don't always get a lot of respect. I think the guys respect me." ■

whom played volleyball in college, were active in athletics. He began playing football in the seventh grade.

He took the hour-long trip to Manhattan to see his first college football game featuring Kansas State and Oklahoma when he was in the sixth grade. According to Stigge, "I said 'Hey, that's what I want to do,'"

He began thinking about college near the end of his junior year, with Kansas State and smaller schools like Bethany College topping his list. The thought of Nebraska entered his mind when Beam informed Stigge of Nebraska's football camp. The Washington school superintendent was an NU alum who encouraged Stigge to try the Huskers; he did.

Kansas State coaches asked Stigge to walk on, but he opted to come to Lincoln when a walkon invitation was offered.

"I decided if I was going to go, I might as well go with something good. I wanted to go to a good program," he says. "I said, 'Heck, give it a shot.' I took a risk."

Stigge redshirted his first year in Lincoln as John Kroeger completed his Husker punting career.

He took over as a freshman in 1989 and averaged 39.7 yards on 35 punts, with a long kick of 51 yards. Stigge earned a scholarship while serving as the No. 1 punter and adjusting to big-time college football.

"I knew I was a decent punter but I was still in awe of what was going on up here," he says. "It was a little bit of a shock and it took a while to adjust to starting and taking control of that. Once I was in there a few times, I relaxed a lot more."

Stigge reports to practice at 2:45 each day, loosens up and stretches with the team, and kicks to returners for 15 minutes. When the team breaks up into groups, the kickers play catch before doing special team work midway through practice. Stigge then waits until the end of practice to run with the team.

"Usually in practice, you're going live so it's like a game situation," Stigge



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# The Game of the Century

Part II

by Jim Weeks

*1991 is the 20th Anniversary of the "Game of the Century," that fabled 35-31 Nebraska win over Oklahoma in November of 1971. In honor of this game, the following is the second of five articles we'll offer in the weeks leading up to the 1991 version of one of the greatest college football rivalries of all time — ED.*

**T**hey met near midfield on the gray Thanksgiving afternoon. They had known each other for years, even though Bob Devaney had been an established high school football coach before Chuck Fairbanks entered college.

Neither could have known that nearly 20 years after being at Michigan State together, they would be on opposite sides of the field during the Game of the Century.

"I think I'll quit after this season," said Devaney before the 1971 game.

"Don't say that to me," responded Fairbanks as they shook hands.

**Rodgers quieted the Sooner crowd after he returned a punt 72-yards for the day's first touchdown.**

Twenty years after the memorable struggle of their teams, Nebraska's Bob Devaney and Oklahoma's Chuck Fairbanks recalled the contest many observers still consider the classic game in college football history.

Nebraska and Oklahoma were all-victorious and previously unchallenged when they met at Owen Field in Norman to decide the 1971 national championship. The Cornhuskers claimed their second straight national title by winning the thrilling, 35-31 game in which each team came from behind twice. The Cornhuskers and Sooners entered their clash and finished the season as the Nos. 1 and 2 teams in the nation.

Oklahoma had been known for its back-breaking, long runs on option plays to its halfbacks. But the longest

rushing gain by the Sooners in the championship game was a 24-yard run by fullback Leon Crosswhite.

"I consider the 1971 team my best football team," said Devaney, who is currently the athletic director at Nebraska. "We won 13 straight games, and the only game that was close was the one that we played with Oklahoma. We beat (Alabama Coach) Bear Bryant, 38-6 (in the Orange Bowl). At that time, Alabama was considered the second best team in the country. It was another one-two game."

The clash with Oklahoma provided Nebraska with its only close contest in 1971. The Cornhuskers' 31-7 victory over nationally third-ranked Colorado was a distant second. Nebraska's balance was demonstrated by the





Cornhuskers' ranking third in the nation in scoring with an average of 39.1 points a game and ranking third in defense against scoring, allowing 8.2 points a game. The offensive mark would have led the nation during most seasons.

"The 1971 Oklahoma game and the one we played against Bryant in the Orange Bowl were the most significant games in my coaching career," said Devaney.

"It was certainly my best offensive team," said Fairbanks, who now is vice president of Land Mark Land Management Company of California. "That Oklahoma team was probably one of the best offensive teams ever to play college football."

Oklahoma set NCAA records with an average of 566.5 yards a game in total offense and 472.4 yards a game rushing and also led the nation in scoring with 44.9 points a game in 1971. The rushing mark still stands.

"The offense was theoretically ahead of the defenses," said Fairbanks. "We were awfully talented, and college defenses had not figured out how to defend the wishbone yet. Nebraska was about as good at it as anybody."

Even so, the Sooners scored more points than any of the Cornhuskers' other 1971 opponents. Oklahoma had averaged 653 yards and 45 points a game before facing the highly regarded Nebraska defense.

**Pruitt saw his season average of 9.5 yards a carry dwindle to 5.3 against Nebraska.**

The game also pitted men who formerly were coach and pupil. Devaney coached the ends at Michigan State in 1953 and 1954 when Fairbanks played end for the Spartans.

Although it is often overlooked, as a head coach, each had returned his respective school to prominence, setting the stage for the championship encounter. Ironically, each coached at the title-contending college for only one more season.

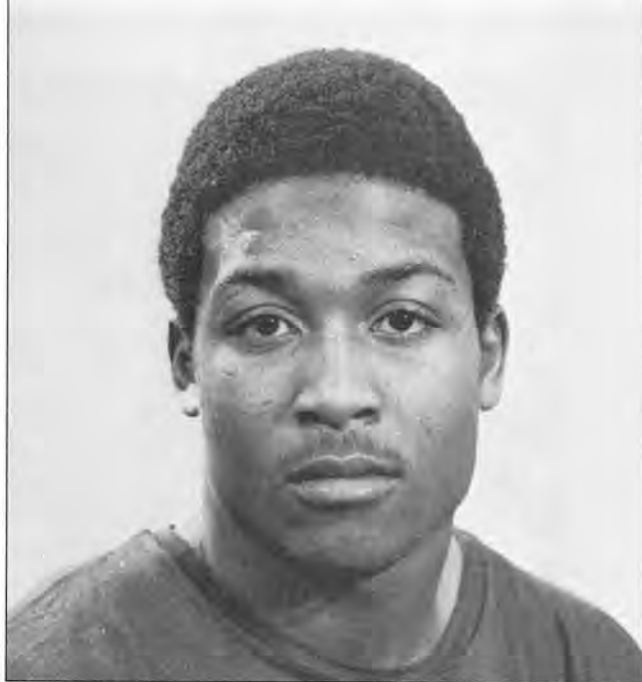
Devaney retired from coaching after posting a lifetime record of 136 wins, 30 losses and 7 ties in 16 seasons at Wyoming and Nebraska. The final 11 years were at Nebraska. Devaney left coaching after the 1972 season with an .806 percentage, best in the nation among active coaches at the time. His Cornhuskers, 101-20-2 for a .829 percentage, won national championships in 1970 and 1971 and claimed Big Eight Conference titles in 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1970, 1971 and 1972 and shared the championship in 1969.

Devaney's eight conference titles

still is a record by a Nebraska coach. And he held the records for the most years coached at Nebraska and the most victories at Nebraska until those marks were bettered by present Head Coach Tom Osborne.

Before Devaney's regime, Nebraska had not won a conference championship since 1940, when Biff Jones took the Cornhuskers to an ill-fated clash with Stanford in the Rose Bowl. For loyal Husker fans, 23 years had been a long time to wait.

Fairbanks' Oklahoma teams posted a 49-18-1 record in six seasons, claiming the Big Eight title in 1967 and sharing the crown in 1968. The 1967







**Fairbanks considers his 1971 offense the best to ever play collegiate football.**

least productive game of the season, rushing for only 53 yards in 10 carries.

"That was the first time anybody had done a good job of defending our basic option play," said Fairbanks, recently recalling the situation. "We ran a bunch of quarterback counter plays. We started the play to look like the wishbone option and had (quarterback Jack) Mildren counter the opposite direction, right up the middle.

"They took the pitchout away from our halfbacks. They kept us from pitching the ball wide. They did it by getting the pursuit from the inside out, and we didn't have a method at that time to cut off their linebackers. It was the first time anybody had played us that way. That's why misdirection (plays) wound up being successful for us. They had somebody for everybody on the outside, and we didn't have a method at that time to cut them off.

"We still scored enough to beat most folks."

"Johnny Rodgers' punt return was a very key play in the game," said Devaney, referring to Nebraska's first touchdown. "He ran a 72-yard punt return for a touchdown. (Running back Jeff) Kinney's last run for a touchdown was a key play. In the last drive to score the winning touchdown, Kinney carried the ball seven of the 12 plays."

Kinney scored on a two-yard run with only 1:38 remaining. The hard-charging senior carried the ball 31 times and gained 174 yards. He gained 154 yards in the second half, when Nebraska came from behind twice.

"Kinney certainly played a tremendous part in our offense in controlling the ball, making the first downs and gaining the tough yardage," Devaney said. "We mixed things up with a little passing in the second half.

"Passing played some part in our

success in the second half. Tom Osborne was calling the offense at that time. He's real sharp, and he found places that were not as tough to advance the ball as were others."

"We were a little banged up on defense," Fairbanks said. "(Defensive end) Raymond (Hamilton) had an injured toe that made it hard for him to play up to par. All week long, we didn't know if (defensive tackle) Derland Moore was going to play."

Oklahoma's defense was not highly regarded in 1971. But the Sooner defense often was at a disadvantage because the Oklahoma offense sometimes scored in so few plays, the defense had little time to rest between series. Nevertheless, the Sooners ranked second only to Nebraska among Big Eight teams in 1971 in the fewest points allowed — a fact that seldom is noted.

However, a fact that often is noted is that Devaney and Fairbanks were the developers of the teams that clashed in the Game of the Century in 1971. ■

championship was Oklahoma's first since 1962, during Bud Wilkinson's next-to-last year as Sooner coach, and only the second title for the Sooners in eight campaigns. That was a long dry spell for Sooner fans who were used to winning the title almost every year for more than a decade.

Fairbanks' Sooners also won the 1972 conference championship but later forfeited the title because of an ineligible player.

Fairbanks, who later was the head coach of Colorado and the New England Patriots of the National Football League, ranks fourth among Oklahoma coaches in number of victories and winning percentage.

"They scored more points on us than anyone else did, so our defense certainly was not the best ever," Devaney said. "But it was sufficient. It was a game really that the team that had the ball last had the best chance of winning. They had the ball back once after we scored the winning touchdown, and we did stop them. It was about the only time anybody stopped anybody all day.

"We tried to see that Pruitt didn't get the ball," Devaney said, referring to Oklahoma right halfback Greg Pruitt, who entered the contest with 1,423 yards rushing, an average of 9.5 yards a rush and 15 touchdowns in nine games. "The man that played the pitch: we tried to keep him free so he didn't have to fight off a blocker or two before he had to get to the ball carrier. It worked pretty good.

"Despite the number of points scored, we had a good defense."

The strategy worked. Pruitt had his

**Devaney found a way to slow down the wishbone offense.**







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# Show of Character

## BUILDS HOPE HEADING INTO LEAGUE ACTION

It wasn't the most flawless performance.

"It wasn't pretty," Coach Tom Osborne said after Nebraska's 18-9 victory against Arizona State.

"But it was a good win, and it was an important time for us to win," which was all that mattered.

Never mind that the Cornhusker offense sputtered at times or that the kicking game was beset by serious problems. The Cornhuskers needed a victory. They needed something about which they could feel good.

And they got it, against a very good Arizona State team.

The victory showed that the Cornhuskers could come back from adversity, specifically a 36-21 loss to Washington at home. It also showed they were capable of winning against a nationally ranked opponent, something Nebraska hadn't done since 1988, when it defeated Oklahoma 7-3.

In the interim, Nebraska suffered six losses to ranked teams.

Arizona State took a No. 24 ranking, according to the Associated Press, into the game.

Surprisingly enough, it was Nebraska's defense, much maligned after the Washington loss, that made the difference against Arizona State.

"I was very pleased with the way the defense came back," said Osborne. "The key to a good football team is to have players who are able to regroup, rebound and rededicate themselves. I thought we played better than I thought we could defensively."

Washington gained 618 total yards against Nebraska. Arizona State managed just 261 yards, including 64 rushing. "We've got to be able to rush the football much better than that," Sun Devil Coach Larry Marmie said.

In its first two games, road victories against Oklahoma State (30-3) and Southern Cal (32-25), Arizona State relied heavily on the run.

Against Nebraska, however, the Sun Devils were forced to pass. And though Arizona State completed 15 of 22 passes for 197 yards, that wasn't good enough. "We put a lot more pressure on the quarterback and, correspondingly, put a lot more pressure on our secondary," Osborne said.

"After the

Washington game, we realized that we couldn't expect to get the job done with a three-man rush. I think it worked out pretty well."

Powers, who suffered a sprained right shoulder late in the game when he was sacked by Trev Alberts, was under constant pressure. "Nebraska's defense brought its outside guys hard most of the night," said Marmie.

The Cornhuskers sacked Arizona State's quarterbacks four times for 23 yards in losses. In contrast, they sacked Washington quarterback Billy Joe Hobert only once. "They've got good pass rushers and they applied a lot of pressure," Marmie said.

That helped explain the Sun Devils' two intercepted passes. The Cornhusker defense also recovered five of seven Arizona State fumbles.

The Black Shirts were both aggressive and opportunistic. "We were really concerned about the defense after last week," said Osborne.



**Trev Alberts (No. 34) sacked Powers (ASU quarterback) and put him out of the game with a sprained shoulder.**



"And we really showed some ability on defense this week. Last week took a lot out of our players."

The Arizona State game should have restored their confidence.

That doesn't mean all is well with the Cornhuskers as they prepare to open Big Eight Conference play against

9- and 10-yard line, a bad place sometimes. We probably should have thrown on first down, but we thought we could bang it in there."

Nebraska's kicking game broke down almost completely against Arizona State. Two field goal attempts were blocked and two others hit the

uprights.

In addition, the Cornhuskers' only extra-point kick was blocked. But tight end William Washington took the ball behind the line of scrimmage and ran it in the end zone for two points, turning a negative into a positive.

"Our kicking game had been the strong point of our team for three straight games," Osborne said. It wasn't, however, in the fourth, even though Mike Stigge averaged 46 yards per punt on four tries.

Nebraska probably shouldn't have had to settle for field goal attempts as often as it did. Nevertheless, there was ample evidence that the Cornhuskers have all the elements of a potent offense.

Brown got 34 of his 135 yards on his second carry of the game. Nebraska on that drive covered 52 yards in seven plays, all of them runs, to take an 8-0 lead less than four minutes after the opening kickoff.

The Cornhuskers seemed poised to roll over Arizona State, however following that drive, they couldn't sustain anything offensively until the second half.

Osborne chose to emphasize the



**Englebert (No. 97, center photo) had four solo tackles. Quarterback Kurt Lasher (No. 14) did not get away here.**

**Mike Anderson (No. 48, left) brings Sun Devil split end Eric Guliford (No. 12) to a stop.**

Oklahoma State in Stillwater after a week off. Nebraska is still looking for offensive consistency.

The Cornhuskers gained only 308 yards against Washington, which wasn't particularly surprising considering the Husky defense ranks among the best in the nation. But Nebraska managed just 316 yards and 18 points against Arizona State, despite the seven turnovers.

Nebraska scored on only two of those possessions, 10

points.

The problem wasn't lack of ability. The Cornhuskers moved the ball well at times. But the closer they got to the Arizona State end zone, the less effective they became.

"The offense never seemed to get going. I never felt comfortable until the final four minutes," said Osborne. "All we had to do was kick another field goal. But we had two hit the crossbar. We kept getting first downs on the 8-,

**Travis Hill (No. 93) with a little help from his friends manhandles the ASU ball carrier.**







**Erik Wiegert  
(No. 61),  
double-  
teaming all  
by himself.**

a much better feeling about his team's defense. "We've had two pretty good games on defense against Colorado State and Arizona State. After the disappointment against Washington, the defense seems to be okay," Osborne said.

"I was fairly concerned, but last night was a big step forward for us.

Osborne, commenting on the fact that some fans may criticize the low score, said, "That's okay. I've kind of gotten used to that. We won the game."

Winning was Osborne's concern, not the quality of the victory.

"I think this could be a real turning point for us," he said. "We could come down here and be 2-2, and that would be real tough."

But the Cornhuskers came away with a 3-1 record and the kind of experience that can only be gained by facing adversity and surviving.

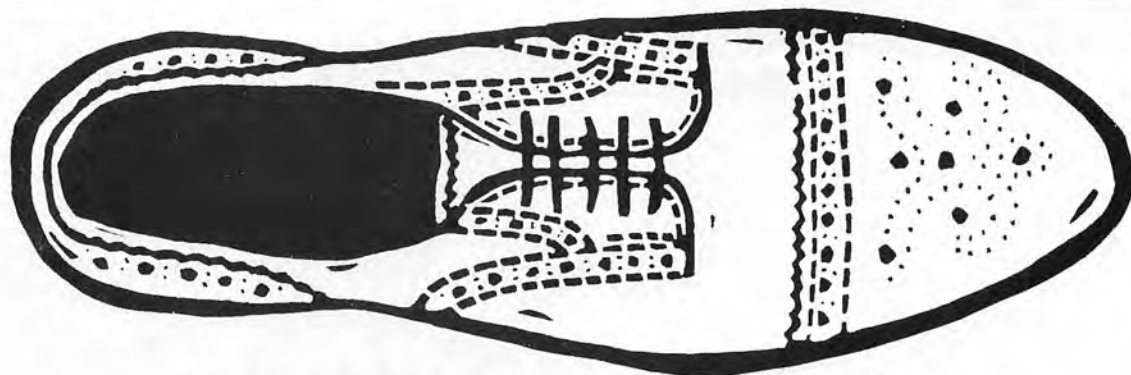
Such experience should serve them well in the conference race. They showed character in the victory, according to Washington.

"I don't know if we showed this kind of character last year, and that could be a big difference for us this year." ■

positive aspects of the victory. "We did a good job of controlling the line of scrimmage, and when that happens,

you usually win," he said. "We're really proud of that."

He also left Sun Devil Stadium with



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# Black Shirts Reign OVER VALLEY OF THE SUN

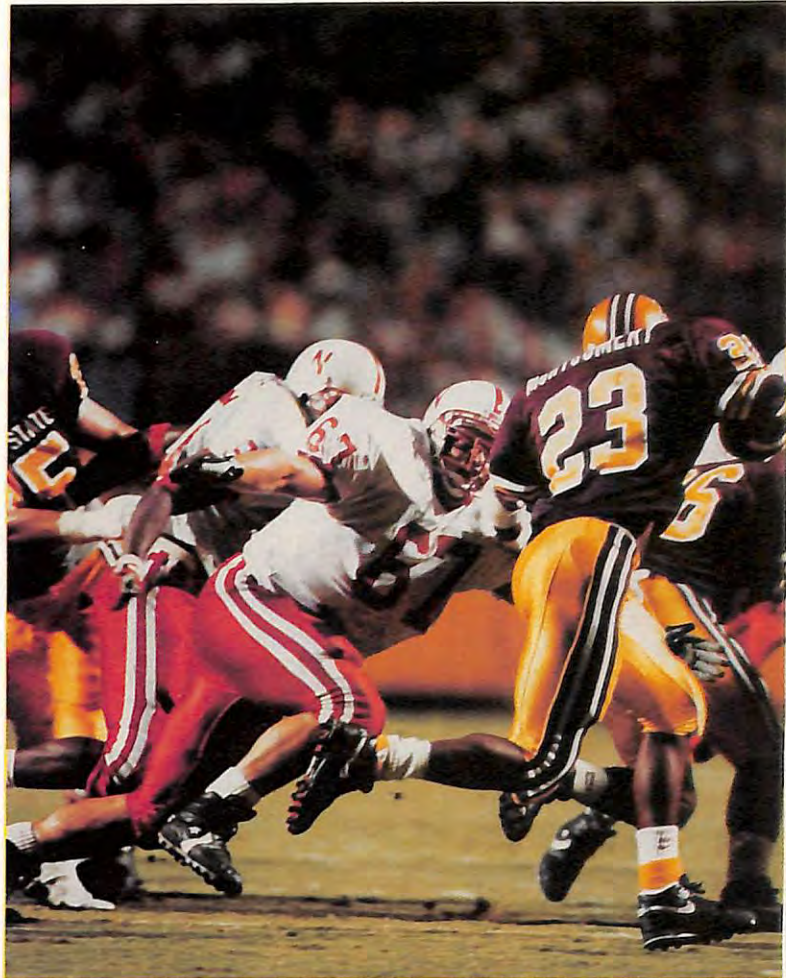
TEMPE, Ariz. — Nebraska answered a few questions and then presented several others during a weird Saturday night in Sun Devil Stadium.

The 16th-ranked Cornhuskers ended a six-game losing string against rated opponents with their 18-9 win against No. 24 Arizona State before a crowd of 72,812. It was the second largest ever to watch an ASU game at Tempe and included some 9,000 Husker faithful.

"The monkey is never off my back," said NU Coach Tom Osborne, referring to the long-awaited victory over a ranked club. "You watch. There will be a lot of disappointment we didn't score more points tonight. It was kind of Chicago Bear football out there tonight."

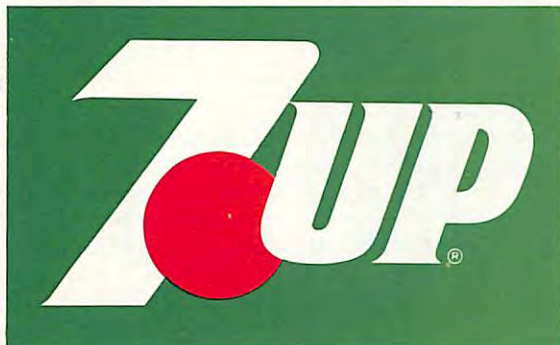
Nebraska did fail to capitalize on golden scoring opportunities, a fact Big Red fans will no doubt debate during NU's two-week layoff. But the Black Shirts rebounded, the team did not collapse and the heat was not too bothersome.

Much of the pre-game discussion about Nebraska centered on what ef-



**Kevin Ramaekers (No. 67) going after the ball — something the Black Shirts were successful at all day.**

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fects the loss to Washington might have and whether the Huskers could handle the Arizona sun, which sent thermometers soaring as high as 110 degrees earlier in the week.

Temperature at the opening kickoff was 94 degrees. The Big Eight Conference granted Nebraska permission to expand its travel roster from 60 to 70 players because of the heat and the Huskers freely substituted Saturday night. Frequent timeouts for injuries, primarily Arizona State players, and television allowed for more water breaks also. "It's not like actual 15-minute quarters," said NU strong safety Steve Carmer.

In the aftermath of the Washington loss, the Huskers responded as they normally have during Osborne's tenure.

Only one of his 19 squads has lost back-to-back regular-season games — the 1976 team to Iowa State and Oklahoma — and examples of quick returns include a 41-7 thumping of 20th-ranked Auburn after a controversial loss to Penn State in 1982 and a 17-3 victory against No. 9 Oklahoma State a week following a 17-9 loss at Syracuse in 1984.

Nebraska struck quickly in its first road game of 1991 in an attempt to erase thoughts of Washington.

Senior Nate Turner returned the opening kickoff 42 yards to the NU 48 and the Huskers scored seven plays later on Keithen McCant's 1-yard quarterback sneak.

I-back Derek Brown carried three times for 39 yards during the scoring drive, including a 34-yard scamper around right end to the Sun Devil 8. ASU blocked Byron Bennett's PAT kick, but Husker tight end William Washington recovered the football in the end zone for an 8-0 Nebraska lead with 11:32 left in the opening quarter.

"I am really pleased to get out of here alive," Osborne said. "I thought last week took a lot out of our players. This could be a real turning point in the season for us.

"We've played some good football teams. I'm glad this is behind us. (Being) 3-1, with the people



**Derek Brown (No. 21, above) caught up with Jarvis Redwine — four consecutive games with 100 yards rushing.**

**The domino effect (left), proved fatal for the Sun Devils. NU's defensive line held.**



**Pat Englebert (right, No. 97) going after his devil; Calvin Jones (lower, No. 44) was the second leading ground gainer.**

we've played, probably isn't terrible. We have to get better obviously to do well in the Big Eight."

The Black Shirts displayed vast improvements after allowing Washington to accumulate 618 yards of total offense, the third-most on record against Nebraska.

Arizona State, after averaging 424 yards in its victories against Oklahoma State and Southern Cal, gained only 261 Saturday, including 95 after intermission.

"For the kids, I'm really happy. They didn't want to let go," said NU Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride. "A game like this will really motivate them. They want to be a good team so bad; they don't want to have things go bad for them."

Nebraska kept ASU off balance by playing mostly zone-pass defense after showing more man under coverage in previous games. The Huskers "didn't play a lot of defenses," McBride said. Blitzes were limited.

The Black Shirts forced the Sun Devils into ill-fated moves. After losing only one interception and one fumble in its first two games, ASU coughed up the football seven times Saturday, losing five fumbles and throwing two interceptions.



"When a team gives up seven turnovers, you have to look at the defense," said NU free safety Tyrone Byrd. "We were hustling to the ball."

The Huskers ended Arizona State's first three possessions with big plays. Carmer recovered a fumble caused by Byrd on ASU's initial drive and Travis Hill tackled holder Adam Brass on a foiled field goal attempt. Curtis Cotton fell on a fumble to end the Sun Devils' third possession.

That was only a continuation of the night's weirdness that began when ASU faked an onside kick to begin the game.

McCant initiated NU's fourth drive

with a 21-yard option keeper and the Huskers methodically moved to the ASU 2 before a 6-yard loss and a procedure penalty forced a Byron Bennett field goal attempt. The Sun Devils blocked the kick, took over at their 38, and marched to score on Mike Richey's 37-yard field goal.

NU, after recovering a fumble on the third quarter kickoff, marched inside Arizona State territory for the fifth time in six possessions, moving to the 20 before a pair of penalties. Bennett's 52-yard field goal attempt was blocked.

Arizona State scored three plays later after a 39-yard pass completion — the Sun Devils' longest play — to lead 9-8 with 11:35 left in the third period.

Nebraska answered with a 15-play, 61-yard march that Bennett capped with a 28-yard field goal that gave the Huskers the permanent lead, though not a comfortable one.

The teams traded a pair of punts, then Husker defensive tackle Kevin Ramaekers recovered the fifth ASU fumble at the Devil 23. McCant completed a 10-yard touchdown pass to Jon Bostick four plays later, giving NU an 18-9 cushion and Bostick his 12th career TD reception (tying Junior Miller and Todd Brown for fifth on the Nebraska chart).

Defensive tackle Jamie Liewer and Carmer made interceptions on the next two Arizona State drives, but Bennett hit the goal posts on two field goal attempts. First the right upright and then











# MEMORIES

NEBRASKA 18

ARIZONA ST. 9

September 28, 1991

Mike Petko (99) and Pat Engelbert (97) bring down  
ASU quarterback Kurt Lasher for one of the  
Black Shirts' four sacks in the game.





**Travis Hill (No. 93, left) found himself double-teamed most of the game. Defensive tackle Jamie Liewer (No. 70, right), nabbed one of the seven ASU fumbles.**

the left.

"If we had just kicked our field goals we would have had 30 points," Osborne said. "Byron Bennett is a real good kicker. The kicking game has been the strong point of the football team for three straight games and I'd say we lost the kicking game tonight."

"We'll have to kick better down the road and take better advantage of scoring opportunities."

In all, NU ended 10 of 13 drives inside ASU territory and scored only three times.

"We kept getting first downs at the 8-, 9-yard line and that's a bad place to get them," Osborne said. "I didn't think we executed very well down close at all tonight."

Brown picked up 135 yards on 25 carries while McCant completed five of

12 passes for 37 yards and rushed for an additional 61.

Nebraska totaled 316 yards of offense and held the ball for more than 20 minutes the second half to claim a 34:43-25:17 advantage in time of possession. Osborne was disappointed, however, with his club's passing success against ASU and he credited the Sun Devils with a solid defense. But the Husker defense outshined their Valley of the Sun counterparts and may have answered doubts about themselves.

Byrd paced the Black Shirts with eight tackles, including seven unassisted, while Travis Hill, Mike Anderson, and John Parrella had six stops each.

"I think we had a really good showing tonight," Carmer said. "We always knew we could play this well."

The coach echoed those sentiments: "I was really proud of our defense," Osborne said. "Last week we were concerned about our defense and I think our defense showed some real ability tonight."

"If I had a choice between going out and just outscoring somebody or winning that way, I'd take this way." ■

RECAP at a GLANCE	9/7 Utah St.	9/14 Colo. St.	9/21 Washington	9/28 Arizona St.	Season Average
First Downs	43	29	15	19	27
Yards Rushing	617	529	135	253	384
Yards Passing	170	167	173	63	143
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	2-1	1-1	0-0	2-1
Time of Possession	16:12	28:27	24:22	34:43	26:16
Third Down Conversions	3-7	9-15	6-16	8-18	7-14
Final Score	59	71	21	19	43



## Byrd, Brown Provoke Devils

TEMPE, Ariz. — Saturday's game meant a homecoming for Husker free safety Tyrone Byrd and he made his former friends and neighbors remember him.

Byrd and I-back Derek Brown, who continued his 100-yard rushing per game streak, earned Defensive and Offensive Player of the Game against Arizona State.

Byrd, a junior from Chandler, Ariz., led Nebraska's defense with eight tackles, seven of which were solo stops.

"It feels awesome, just coming home," said Byrd, who nearly did not return to Nebraska for his sophomore season after spending time in Arizona following NU's loss in the 1990 Sunkist Fiesta Bowl. "I knew about half the guys on their team. I heard some fans calling me a traitor before the game."

Byrd made a quick impact Saturday when he forced ASU's Jerome Davison to fumble on the Sun Devils' opening drive.

"There were some good shots," said NU Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride, who watched the replay of Byrd's fumble-causing hit on the Sun Devil Stadium big screen television. "I happened to look at the screen and he blew the ball out of there."

Brown became the first rusher since



**Tyrone Byrd (No. 8) led the defense while Derek Brown (No. 21) took charge of the ground game.**

Jarvis Redwine in 1980 to begin a season with four straight 100-yard games by rushing for 135 yards on 25 carries against Arizona State.

Brown, who did not have a carry for minus yards Saturday, now has 431 yards on the season.

"I'm pretty happy where we are now, but we can turn it up a lot more," said Brown, a sophomore from La Habre,

Calif.

The 180-pound Brown, who earned the Player of the Week honor for the second consecutive week, expressed concern about Nebraska's failure to score on seven of 10 possessions after driving into Sun Devil territory.

"We've got to put it in when we get that close," he said. "We can't get stopped like that. It was ridiculous." ■

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## Looking Back: Game No. 5 — A Five-Year History

### 1990 — NU 45, Kansas St. 7 at Manhattan

Kansas State could only muster 40 rushing yards on 36 carries and 119 yards through the air as Nebraska pounded the home team. Joe Sims led the Black Shirts with eight tackles, six of which came in the first stanza.

Tyrone Hughes was a special teams nightmare for the Wildcats, returning five punts for 94 yards and three kickoffs for 153 yards, including a 99-yarder for a touchdown. His run was the longest kickoff return since 1949. Leodis Flowers had 112 yards on 16 carries to lead the ground game.

### 1989 — NU 58, Kansas St. 7 at Lincoln

The Husker offense exploded for 723 net yards, including 575 yards on the ground to crush the visitors. Ken Clark was the leading rusher with 166 yards on 22 carries while Gerry Gdowski added 81 yards and Leodis Flowers had 77.

Three quarterbacks completed passes for

the Huskers with Gdowski hitting on four for 112 yards and a score.

On defense, Pat Tyrance was the leading tackler with five stops in limited playing time. John Crippen had four stops and Paul Brungardt had two stops for 11 yards in losses.

### 1988 — NU 47, UNLV 6 at Lincoln

The Huskers wrapped up their nonconference schedule with a rout of the Running Rebels. Ken Clark had three touchdown runs while quarterback Steve Taylor alternated between the run and pass with perfection, throwing for 56 yards and scampering for 67 more.

Terry Rodgers, Bryan Carpenter and Scott Baldwin added scoring runs while Cartier Walker scooped up a blocked punt that was smothered by Mike Croel and returned it 34 yards for a score.

Only two long field goals (53 and 54 yards) kept the defense from a shutout.

### 1987 — NU 54, Kansas 2 at Lincoln

Ken Clark had touchdown runs of 4 and 22 yards as the Husker offense overwhelmed the visitors to open Big Eight action. Clete Blakeman, making his first start for the injured Steve Taylor, completed six passes for 100 yards, including a 16-yard scoring toss to Tom Banderas in the third quarter.

Kansas stormed through on a punt attempt in the fourth quarter, blocking it through the end zone for a safety.

### 1986 — NU 30, OSU 10 at Lincoln

With the temperature at 30 degrees, a driving rain and 30 m.p.h. winds, Nebraska once again beat the visitors from Stillwater before an ESPN audience.

Keith Jones had scoring jaunts of 1 and 5 yards and Rod Smith broke loose for a 63-yard scoring punt return to spur the offense and push the Huskers to 5-0 on the season. OSU's famed ground attack only gained 101 yards.



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Following its open date, Nebraska takes on an Oklahoma State squad that is beleaguered with injuries and suffering a winless 1991 season.

Usually the Cowboys' game against Tulsa is a good barometer for the season. This year is no exception. OSU travelled to Tulsa and left with a 13-7 loss. From there the Pokes dropped home decisions to Arizona State (30-3) and Texas Christian (24-21) followed by a road loss to Miami. The 0-4 start is the longest losing streak since OSU started the 1980 season with an 0-5 mark. OSU hasn't beaten Nebraska since 1961. Will history repeat itself this Saturday? Could be.

"We have to be ready for them, no matter what their record is," said Nebraska coaches after their 18-9 win over Arizona State.

Pat Jones has yet to decide on a starting quarterback. Redshirt freshman Brent Scott (6-foot-4, 208) and senior Kenny Ford (6-0, 195) have been battling for playing time. In terms of total offense, Ford is the leader with 301 yards (including 250 through the air). Scott has thrown for 252 yards. Ford has two touchdowns and two interceptions while Scott is still looking for his first scoring toss but has four interceptions.



**COWBOYS 2-DEEP**(returning starters in **bold**)**OFFENSE**

SE	Bert Milliner	5-6	150	jr.
	Brad McCone	6-1	185	jr.
LT	<b>Josh Arrott</b>	6-5	270	sr.
	Chad Brown	6-5	263	fr.
LG	<b>Brian Bobo</b>	6-2	275	sr.
	O. Zuaznabar	6-3	273	fr.
C	<b>Pete Surette</b>	6-2	266	sr.
	Scott Hall	6-2	290	so.
RG	<b>Matt Jose</b>	6-4	290	so.
	A. Greenlee	6-1	305	so.
RT	Mike Butler	6-2	278	so.
	J.B. Warner	6-4	278	jr.
TE	<b>S. Copeland</b>	6-3	240	jr.
	Steve Keith	6-3	220	so.
QB	<b>Kenny Ford</b>	6-0	195	sr.
	Brent Scott	6-4	208	fr.
FB	Roger Franks	6-0	242	so.
	Rod Sanders	5-11	215	so.
TB	Rafael Denson	5-8	165	fr.
	L.G. Thompson	5-11	185	fr.
FL	<b>R. Kirksey</b>	6-0	193	sr.
	M. Cheatwood	5-9	175	fr.

**DEFENSE**

LE	<b>A. Thompson</b>	6-4	250	jr.
	Wendall Gaines	6-5	280	so.
LT	B. Colbert	6-1	277	sr.
	Elmer Williams	6-3	290	jr.
RT	<b>S. Satterwhite</b>	6-6	270	sr.
	Eric Garmond	6-3	267	jr.
RE	<b>Jason Gildon</b>	6-4	220	so.
	Lorenzo Green	6-3	245	fr.
ELB	<b>M. Woolridge</b>	6-3	225	jr.
	Marc Spatz	6-2	228	fr.
MLB	C. Nobles	6-0	233	so.
	Arthur Davis	5-11	232	jr.
WLB	Chris Calhoun	5-10	210	so.
	C. Funchess	6-3	203	jr.
LCB	<b>Mike Clark</b>	5-11	198	sr.
	Todd Fisher	5-11	176	jr.
FS	<b>Scott Harmon</b>	5-8	190	so.
	Charles Verner	6-1	200	so.
SS	Tharon Tircuit	5-10	170	fr.
	Cornell Cannon	6-1	200	jr.
RCB	Carlos Erving	6-1	215	jr.
	Terry Henley	5-10	182	jr.

**HUSKERS 2-DEEP**(returning starters in **bold**)**OFFENSE**

SE	<b>Jon Bostick</b>	6-2	190	sr.
	Tyrone Hughes	5-10	175	jr.
LT	Erik Wiegert	6-5	300	sr.
	L. Lundberg	6-4	305	so.
LG	<b>Dave Jensen</b>	6-4	305	jr.
	Chris Zyzda	6-2	285	jr.
C	Jim Scott	6-2	260	so.
	B. Ziegelbein	6-4	275	sr.
RG	Will Shields	6-1	295	jr.
	T.J. Slansky	6-5	275	jr.
RT	<b>B. Boerboom</b>	6-7	310	sr.
	Zach Wiegert	6-5	310	fr.
TE	<b>W. Washington</b>	6-2	260	jr.
	J. Mitchell	6-3	260	so.
QB	K. McCant	6-2	200	sr.
	<b>M. Joseph</b>	5-10	180	sr.
FB	Omar Soto	5-10	220	sr.
	Robert Glantz	5-11	220	sr.
TB	<b>Derek Brown</b>	5-9	180	so.
	Calvin Jones	5-11	205	fr.
WB	<b>Nate Turner</b>	6-2	220	sr.
	V. Hawkins	5-11	210	jr.

**DEFENSE**

OLB	<b>Travis Hill</b>	6-2	235	jr.
	David Leader	6-2	205	jr.
LT	Jamie Liewer	6-4	270	jr.
	Matt Hilman	6-3	275	jr.
NG	Pat Engelbert	6-2	265	sr.
	David Noonan	6-3	275	so.
RT	Brian Brown	6-6	280	sr.
	John Parrella	6-5	290	jr.
OLB	David White	6-2	240	jr.
	Trev Alberts	6-4	235	so.
SLB	<b>Mike Petko</b>	6-3	230	sr.
	D. Williams	6-1	250	so.
WLB	M. Anderson	6-2	230	so.
	Doug Colman	6-2	220	fr.
LCB	Curtis Cotton	6-1	210	sr.
	Kenny Wilhite	5-8	190	jr.
FS	<b>Tyrone Byrd</b>	6-0	175	jr.
	John Reece	6-0	205	so.
SS	<b>Steve Carmer</b>	6-2	210	jr.
	Troy Dumas	6-3	185	fr.
RCB	<b>T. Legette</b>	5-10	180	sr.
	Vernon Powell	5-10	160	so.

The burden of becoming the next great tailback has fallen on true freshman Rafael Denson (5-8, 165). Compared to Barry Sanders in stature and style, Denson has suffered through an ankle injury and has gained just 136 yards on 41 tries. Fellow freshmen L.G. Thompson (5-11, 185) and Russell Berrien (5-9, 196) have also gotten their share of totes this season. Berrien has 16 for 50 yards while Thompson has 19 for 34. Where are you Barry, Gerald and Thurman? Fullback Roger Franks (6-0, 242, so.) fits the typical Cowboy fullback mold — strong, big and noted for blocking more than running. He has only five carries this year.

Veteran Robert Kirksey (6-0, 193, sr.), who was thought to be the Cowboys' main-deep threat this year, has been upstaged by Bert Milliner (5-6, 150, jr.). Milliner, a junior college transfer, has 16 grabs for 216 yards and a score while Kirksey has hauled in nine passes for 113 yards.

Cowboy coaches are excited about the potential of sophomore end Jason Gildon (6-4, 220) who has 13 stops and leads the team with 4.5 sacks.

Senior Brandon Colbert (6-1, 277) joins Satterwhite on the line. He has 14 stops and one sack for six yards.

The linebacking corps is young but good. Junior Mike Woolridge (6-3, 225, jr.) is the emotional leader and has 17 stops. Middle man Clarence Nobles (6-0, 233, so.) leads the bunch in tackles with 27. Chaucer Funchess (6-3, 203, jr.) and Chris Calhoun (5-10, 210, so) alternate at the weakside linebacker spot. Calhoun has seven sticks and Funchess has 17.

The secondary has suffered with early season losses of key players, but others have come to the front. Senior left cornerback Mike Clark (5-11, 198, sr.) was expected to have a stellar final campaign but has produced only five stops and no interceptions. Right cornerback Carlos Erving (6-1, 215, jr.) is the biggest defensive back and has used his size to total 11 tackles. Strong safety Tharon Tircuit (5-10, 170, fr.) has five stops.

Consistency on special teams is no longer a given for OSU. All-everything kicker Cary Blanchard graduated, leaving a void that redshirt freshman Rick Myers (5-11, 185) is trying to fill on extra points. He has successfully hit all PAT and field goal attempts. Senior Barry Vincent (6-0, 191) is the punter, averaging 31.2 yards per try. ■

**Key Matchups: NU versus Oklahoma St.**

**Nebraska coming off an open date** — Rust is always a concern after an open date and the game at Stillwater is no exception. Despite the Cowboys' ineptness through four games, they will be fired up for the Huskers. Any time a team wearing red and white (be it Oklahoma or Nebraska) comes to town, OSU gives its best effort.

**OSU quarterback Kenny Ford against the Black Shirts** — Ford presents the Black Shirts with a unique problem: a quarterback that can pass and run. Ford is more dangerous on the ground but if he gets hot, he can make the big plays through the air. Nebraska's

defense must be able to put pressure on Ford and once he is out of the pocket, contain him from making the long scramble for significant yardage.

**Nebraska's running game against a maligned Cowboy defense** — For Oklahoma State to have a chance, it has to stop Nebraska on the ground — something it could not do in its previous four games. If Nebraska is able to run the ball at will and force the Cowboys to play an eight-man front, Jon Bostick and Johnny Mitchell could have a big day. OSU's defense has suffered many key injuries and is far from full-speed for Nebraska.



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# FOOTBALL FORECAST

Oct. 12, 1991  
 Stillwater, Okla.  
 Huskers vs. Cowboys  
 Kickoff: 1:30 p.m. (CDT)

**Travis Lawrence**, *Stillwater News-Press*: "After last week's game at Miami, you have to believe that Oklahoma State won't be able to get up for two games in a row. The coaches tried to play Miami tough but they emphasized that it wasn't a conference game. As long as they survived Miami and had enough bodies to put on the field against Nebraska, OSU coaches had to be happy. Plus the Cowboys are playing a team that they haven't beaten since 1961. That has to wear on a team. The freshmen that are playing don't know anything about Nebraska except for what the upperclassmen have told them. But the Cowboys always seem to play Nebraska tough at home and Nebraska's defense doesn't look as strong as it has in recent years. But it's good enough. I'll take Nebraska 31-7."

**Steve Carpenter**, *North Platte Telegraph*: "It's gotten to the point in the Big Eight where every team has a chance to win on any Saturday. OSU has a chance, but it isn't a good one. Pat Jones will try anything on offense to move the ball. When Barry (Sanders) and Gerald (Hudson) were there, they ran the ball down our throat. When Rusty Hilger was there, they passed all the time. But with the way our defense improved between the Washington and Arizona State games, I can't see OSU getting over 200 yards of total offense. Being at home won't help the Cowboys. They're still playing Nebraska and OSU will be staring at that winless streak. They'll crumble under the weight of that streak if this game is close at half-time. I'm still not sold on how consistent Nebraska's offense is but I'll say **Nebraska 38, Oklahoma State 10.**"

**John Ryan**, *Columbus Telegram*:

"Oklahoma State seems to be as hapless as the Kansas teams of past years. However Nebraska has shown itself to be the same power team that we are all used to seeing. Nebraska will handle Oklahoma State in the same manner that it has handled the Kansas teams in recent history. **Nebraska 48, OSU 10.**"

**Chad Bonham**, *Tulsa Tribune*: "It's obvious that Pat Jones is in trouble. His offense is in a rut of not scoring points and his defense can't stop anyone. Nebraska came up with a needed win at Arizona State. This won't be a contest. Oklahoma State is outsized and outexperienced. Nebraska will have to make a lot of mistakes to keep this game close. OSU won't be able to drive the ball against the Black Shirts. If they do, it will be late in the game on the Nebraska reserves. Nebraska will run away with it in the early stages like Miami did last week and then coast through the second half. I'll say **Nebraska 45-3.**"

**Jeff Korblik**, *Grand Island Independent*: "OSU doesn't have a chance against the Huskers. Playing at Stillwater will help OSU some but not enough. Nebraska proved last week that it can play on the road. The Cowboys' egos are bruised after last week at Miami. Nebraska won't have any trouble in Stillwater and will leave with a **38-14** win. OSU will have to throw the ball to move it."

**Tom Vint**, *Associated Press*: "The Cowboys head into this game battered and bruised — as if their egos needed any more punishment. The Huskers gained confidence at Arizona State and will begin to flex their Big Eight muscles this week. Playing at Stillwater will help but the Cowboys haven't moved

the ball against anyone else this season, so why expect them to do anything against Nebraska? The Huskers are playing more aggressively and showing fewer mistakes. The young players on defense are starting to pay some dividends for Charlie McBride. Nebraska will win **42-7.**"

**Al Jerkens**, *KJRH-TV*: "The line problems for OSU will continue against Nebraska. The Cowboys have had too many injuries on defense to pose a real threat to the Huskers, even though the game is at Oklahoma State. OSU is outmanned and outexperienced. **Nebraska 45, OSU 10.**"

**Chuck Green**, *Daily Nebraskan*: "OSU hasn't shown much so far this season. The Cowboys' situation wasn't helped much at Miami. I can't see Oklahoma State's offense stopping Nebraska. The only thing that can stop Nebraska is themselves. The Huskers usually play their best game at Stillwater and I expect that to be true again this season. I'll take Nebraska to win **59-10** in a game that will get out of hand."

**Our Pick**: "Is there any hope for Oklahoma State? Will the Cowboys be able to salvage anything from a season that is quickly going from bad to worse? What does the future hold for the probation-riddled Pokes? These questions are haunting Pat Jones. He has seen a team fall from the glory of a 10-2 season in 1988 to an 0-5 start in 1991. Nebraska will continue the Cowboys' misery with a **38-6** victory. Luckily for Jones the OSU alumni are enamored with his past performances. He's not in hot water — yet. A solid stomping in front of the home crowd could set the rumor mill in motion."



## Individual Stats

### RUSHING

#### Nebraska

PLAYER	ATT	YDS	LOST	LONG	TDS
Brown	25	135	0	34	0
McCant	18	80	19	21	1
Jones	8	42	3	9	0

#### Arizona State

PLAYER	ATT	YDS	LOST	LONG	TDS
Montgomery	16	83	12	20	1
Charles	5	13	0	6	0
Lasher	1	7	0	7	0
Bates	1	4	0	4	0

### PASSING

#### Nebraska

PLAYER	ATT/COMP	INT	YDS	LONG	TDS
McCant	12-5	1	37	10	1
Joseph	3-2	0	26	22	0

#### Arizona State

PLAYER	ATT/COMP	INT	YDS	LONG	TDS
Powers	20-14	1	174	39	0

### RECEIVING

#### Nebraska

PLAYER	NO	YDS	LONG	TDS
Hawkins	1	22	22	0
Bostick	1	10	10	1
Mitchell	2	9	7	0

#### Arizona State

PLAYER	NO	YDS	LONG	TDS
Fisher	4	75	39	0
Guliford	5	47	12	0

## Score by Quarter

ASU	0	3	6	0	—	9
NU	8	0	3	7	—	18

## Team Statistics

	NU	ASU
First downs	19	14
Rushing	16	4
Passing	3	9
Penalties	0	1
Rushing yardage	61-279	32-115
Yards lost rushing	26	51
Net yards rushing	253	64
Net yards passing	63	197
Passes attempted	15	22
Passes completed	7	15
Passes intercepted	1	2
Total plays	76	54
Total net yards	316	261
Avg. gain per play	4.2	4.8
Fumbles-lost	0-0	7-5
Penalties-yards	6-55	5-35
Interceptions-yards	2-8	1-0
Punt yards	4-184	2-65
Avg. per punt	46.0	32.5
Punt ret.-yards	0-0	2-8
Kickoff ret.-yards	3-88	4-116
Possession time	34:43	25:17
3rd down conv.	8-18	3-11
Sacks by	4-23	1-8

## Defensive Stats

### Nebraska

PLAYER	SOLO	ASST	SACKS	YDS LOST
Ramaekers	2	0	0	2
Liewer	2	0	0	
Engelbert	4	1	0	
Parrella	5	1	0	1
Hill	4	2	0	16
White	3	1	2	13
Alberts	2	0	1	8
Petko	3	1	0	
Anderson	4	2	0	
Williams	3	1	1	2
Leader	0	0	0	
Cotton	1	0	0	
Legette	1	1	0	
Byrd	7	1	0	
Carmer	1	1	0	
Wilhite	1	0	0	
Belser	1	2	0	
Brown	2	0	0	
Dumas	1	0	0	
Wightman	0	1	0	

### Arizona State

PLAYER	SOLO	ASST	SACKS	YDS LOST
Paul	7	4	0	
Wallerstedt	12	3	0	2
Brass	6	2	0	1
Phair	4	4	0	
Sparks	5	3	0	
Mason	5	1	0	
Dixon	4	0	0	2
Miniefield	4	0	0	
Boyd	3	1	0	3
Kordas	0	3	0	
Hooks	2	0	1	8

## How They Scored

### NU — ASU

	Time
<b>First Quarter</b>	
8-0 McCant 1-yard run (Washington run)	3:28
<b>Second Quarter</b>	
8-3 Richey 37-yard field goal	2:48
<b>Third Quarter</b>	
8-9 Montgomery 1-yard run (run failed)	1:18
11-9 Bennett 28-yard field goal	5:17
<b>Fourth Quarter</b>	
18-9 Bostick 10-yard pass from McCant (Bennett PAT)	1:24

Keithen McCant rushed and passed for Nebraska's only two touchdowns in Tempe.





With the win, Nebraska stayed in the Associated Press poll for the 161st consecutive week, breaking the previous record held by Michigan of 160 weeks (1968-80). Heading into the season, Nebraska had the sixth highest total of AP weekly No. 1 rankings (34) and the third- and fourth-longest streaks at No. 1 (15 and 14 weeks).

Derek Brown's 135-yard performance against Arizona State moved the

swift sophomore into the No. 2 position on the 1991 Big Eight rushing chart. Brown (132.75 yards per game) is currently ranked second behind Tony Sands (145.33) in the conference and ninth in the nation.

Lows included Byron Bennett's nightmarish kicking night. Bennett had two kicks blocked and saw two others hit the uprights only to fall to the ground. But it was Bennett's 28-yard field goal

that gave Nebraska the lead for good at 11-9 in the third quarter.

Nebraska could only manage 63 yard through the air — 22 of which came on one play.

On the Cover: Keithen McCant prepares to ignite another offensive attack in the Valley of the Sun. All game photos by Harry Lentz Jr.

## AROUND THE BIG EIGHT

### Oklahoma 29

#### Iowa State 8

In the first conference game for both squads, Oklahoma's defense sacked Cyclone quarterbacks eight times and limited ISU to 88 rushing yards on 43 carries.

Oklahoma (4-0 and ranked fifth in the nation) was led on offense by sophomore signal-caller Cale Gundy who completed 12 of 20 passes for 206 yards and three touchdowns. Gundy hooked up with Corey Warren on two scoring aeriels, a 37-yarder in the second quarter and a 31-yarder 8:26 from the end to seal the victory.

Mike Gaddis continued his comeback from major knee surgery by rushing for 118 yards on 26 totes. Gaddis was forced to carry the rushing burden after starter Dewell Brewer was taken out of the game in the second quarter with a hyperextended knee. Brewer is expected to miss at least two weeks (games against Texas and Colorado).

Stacey Dillard led OU's defense with three sacks and seven tackles. Corey Mayfield sacked ISU starting quarterback Bob Utter, forcing the sophomore to the sidelines with a dislocated jaw, sprained ankle and sprained shoulder.

Chris Pedersen, last year's starter who has been demoted to the second unit, had 132 yards through the air and gained 64 yards on the ground. Pedersen ran several quarterback draws (the play that doomed OU in last season's 33-31 upset loss), but the Sooner defense was prepared and stuffed the senior for minimal yardage. Freshman Kevin Caldwell posted 53 yards on 14 carries.

### Oklahoma State 3

#### Miami (Fla.) 40

The visiting Cowboys were stifled by the No. 2-ranked Hurricanes. Only a 33-yard Rick Myers field goal at the

3:59 mark in the third quarter kept winless Oklahoma State (0-4) from being shut out. Russell Berrien led the Cowboys on the ground with 46 yards on 21 carries. Quarterback Kenny Ford completed five passes for 37 yards.

OSU managed only 61 yards on the ground in the first half on 25 tries. The Pokes' lone pass in the first half was a seven-yard effort on the opening drive. Miami constantly pressured OSU and sacked Ford four times.

Playing in front of the smallest Miami home crowd since 1989, Hurricane quarterback Gino Torretta threw for a touchdown and 264 yards. However, the maligned OSU secondary intercepted Miami three times.

On the ground, Miami racked up 230 rushing yards on 29 carries against an OSU defense that has been unable to stop the rush all season.

### Missouri 31

#### Memphis State 21

At Columbia, the Tigers got off to their best start in nearly a decade (2-1-1) thanks to a 31-point explosion in the second quarter. Phil Johnson connected with offensive guard Bob Petrus on a 1-yard touchdown pass to start the scoring.

### Kansas 19

#### Virginia 31

Four Jayhawk turnovers resulted in 24 Virginia points to hand the visitors their first loss of the season. Tony Sands led Kansas with 124 yards on the ground. Chip Hilleary had a miserable day which was capped off by linebacker P.J. Killian's 20-yard interception return for a touchdown.

## Top 10 Action . . .

Top-ranked Florida State rolled to its second victory over a Top 10 team in

as many weeks as the Seminoles scalped No. 10 Syracuse at home 46-14. Casey Weldon had 347 yards through the air.

In another battle involving two Top 10 squads, No. 7 Michigan bested No. 9 Iowa 43-24 at Iowa City. Heisman candidate Desmond Howard had two scoring catches. Third-ranked Washington improved to 2-0 in the Pacific-10 with a 54-0 victory over Arizona at Seattle. Clemson's top-ranked defense was stunned at Georgia in the sixth-ranked Tigers' 27-12 loss. No. 10 Notre Dame won on the West Coast and avenged last season's loss to Stanford.



## CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Team	*W	L	T	PF	PA
Oklahoma	1	0	0	29	8
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas St.	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado	0	0	0	0	0
Oklahoma St.	0	0	0	0	0
Missouri	0	0	0	0	0
Iowa St.	0	1	0	8	29

## OVERALL

Team	W	L	T	PF	PA
Oklahoma	4	0	0	151	48
Kansas	3	1	0	126	69
Kansas St.	3	1	0	104	105
Nebraska	3	1	0	169	87
Missouri	2	1	1	102	114
Colorado	2	2	0	123	57
Iowa St.	2	3	0	94	105
Oklahoma St.	0	4	0	34	107

\* Wins-Loses-Tie-Points For-Points Against



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What comes to your mind when you think sports in Chicago? Bears, Bulls, Redwings, Cubs, White Sox, Mike Singletary, Dick Butkus, Walter Payton, Mike Ditka, Michael Jordan, Harry Carey, Ryne Sandberg, Andre Dawson, Frank Thomas, Robin Ventura, Bo Jackson. Sure! But that's not all...some of the toughest, meanest, high school football played anywhere in the country is in the Windy City area!

Even if you haven't seen Chicago high school football, you just know it's tough, mean, dirty, muddy, rough and tumble-type football. Chicagoans wouldn't have it any other way. Chicago is a blue collar city — work hard, earn a day's pay and play hard.

Outside of Chicago, sports fans are familiar with the mentality and personality of Chicago teams mainly because WGN beams in game after game. The networks run the Bears and Bulls any time they can because of marquee value, the huge television market. Granted, there is some glitz with Jordan and the Bulls, but as a whole, the Chicago sports teams are going to fight you until that final buzzer sounds.

High school football in Chicago isn't any different. The game is played in the trenches, won in the trenches. No fancy quarterbacks, wide receivers or running backs. The high school game is won with linemen — great down linemen!

Tom Lemming of *Prep Football Report* has covered the area for years. He understands the core of Chicago high school football.

"Without a doubt, when you see football in urban areas around the country like New York, Los Angeles, Houston and Miami kind of deteriorating, and high school football programs aren't doing as well," says Lemming. "Foot-

ball, and basketball for that matter, are really flourishing in Chicago. More football players are coming out than ever before.

"Over 150 players got full rides out of Chicago and surrounding suburbs, the highest total in seven or eight years. To complete the full cycle, 21 guys went in the NFL draft from the Chicago area including a couple of first rounders like Russell Maryland (Miami to Dallas) and Bobby Wilson (Michigan State to the Redskins). Other players like Chris

continue. But there are some excellent linebackers and defensive ends in the area also."

All the major powers are flocking to Chicago looking for one or two great prospects that will make their recruiting class. You have your traditional college gridiron powers like Notre Dame who have worked the area forever. But with so many prospects in the area, many newcomers such as Oklahoma have joined in the hunt.

"Notre Dame can get just about any kid in the area if they want them," says Lemming. "Notre Dame is only an hour away from Chicago so they are awfully tough to beat. The thing is, Notre Dame is a national recruiting school so they

don't zero in on any one area of the country. Normally they get two or three players out of Chicago and that's it. They like to recruit all over the country so that they can keep their nationwide appeal intact, because normally there would be a lot more kids wanting to go to Notre Dame. After Notre Dame comes Michigan, Illinois and Iowa — all doing very well in the area. UCLA, Nebraska, Miami and Arizona State have always

# CHIC

**High school football in Chicago...is played in the trenches and won in the trenches...with linemen — great down linemen!**

Zorich and Nolan Harrison all went early in the draft and are doing fantastic.

"I think right now is probably a high water mark for the Chicago area," continues Lemming. "This coming year for talent is no exception. There are several All-American possibilities in the offensive line group coming out and a couple of defensive linemen. Chicago has never been known for their running backs and defensive backs and I think that will



# AGO

## A Recruiter's Kind Of Town!

done well in Chicago. Oklahoma is trying to make some inroads into the area and Colorado in the '70s pulled in a lot of great talent out of Chicago. In fact, four of their Chicago players went on to NFL careers. However, Colorado took the '80s off in hitting Chicago and moved to California and Texas where they have recruited well recently.

"Nebraska is another school which always has recruited Chicago pretty well," continued Lemming. "Their star tight end Johnny Mitchell is from Simian High and wingback Nate Turner is from Chicago. Nebraska has always gotten some players. They receive great response in the area and will continue to do so. Oklahoma started hitting the area last year.

"Dick Foster, OU Recruiting Coordinator, did a good job of lining up names and setting up visits with ball players that he thought would be interested in Oklahoma. They went after a handful last year and came away with one of the top two players in the whole state, Greg Wilkins (Chicago Vocational).

### OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

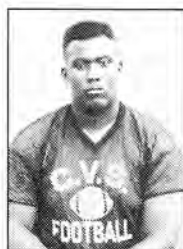
"I think the top offensive lineman is **Chris Campbell** (6-foot-3, 290, 4.9) of Chicago Vocational who is tremen-

dously quick and agile," says Lemming. "His body looks like it could use a little weight lifting, but he can bench 350 pounds. So he is just a natural athlete who is also the best friend of Wilkins, which gives the Sooners a great shot at him."

Other outstanding offensive line prospects that will head to major colleges next fall include **Brian Jurewicz** (6-6, 245, 4.9) of Deerfield, Ill., a prep All-American who also excels on the basketball court. Once on a good weight program, Jurewicz will fill out to 300 pounds with tremendous feet.

Kevin Peterson (6-4, 250, 5.0) of Lockport, Ill., is a big talent as is Tom Guynes (6-4, 285, 5.0) of Kankakee (Bishop Mac), Ill. Physically Guynes is the most impressive looking lineman in the entire Midwest and a good bid for All-American honors.

Jurewicz has already qualified with a 3.67 GPA and 26 ACT. At the moment Notre Dame, Iowa, Colorado, Wisconsin, Illinois and Mich., are in on this



budding superstar. Peterson is wide open at the moment with Iowa and Illinois set for two of the five visits while Guynes says Colorado, Oklahoma and Notre Dame are his top three choices. USC, Illinois and Wisconsin are waiting in the wings hoping for a good word.

Keep an eye on big James Darby (6-5, 315, 5.2) out of Streamwood, Ill. Despite some excess weight, Darby is extremely quick off the ball with great punch at first contact. Darby has Michigan State, OU, Washington, Illinois, Colorado and Nebraska as his top schools.

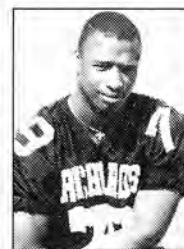
### DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Defensive linemen aren't as plentiful. Many times a projected defensive lineman winds up on the offensive side of the ball, but there are a couple that look like can't miss prospects.

"**Anthony Jones** (6-5, 250, 4.8) of Oak Lawn Richards, Ill., is considered one of the top five defensive linemen in the country," says Lemming. "Great explosion off the ball and he's got tremendous closing speed on the quarterback. He's one of those natural pass rushers that you really can't teach anything, he's just born that way. Jones has tremendous potential if he stays healthy. He does have a tendency to get hurt. In fact, he broke his hand last week and will miss two more weeks. If he's healthy he's one of the best around. Jones has great strength to go along with that speed and he can bench 405 pounds."

Jones can have his pick of college programs and admits that he has thought a lot about Florida State, Notre Dame, Stanford, Michigan and Illinois. However, this early in the season he doesn't want to turn a deaf ear to any college coach who wants to talk.

"I have to be sure about my academics," says Jones. "I don't want to make





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a decision too quick, then change my mind because that would be bad for my academics. I'll take my time making a decision to make sure I make the right one."

Watch Paul Marshall (6-4, 250, 4.8) of Naperville (North) Illinois. He had a great first couple of games, already coming up with nine sacks. The big three in the Big Eight are in the hunt for this pass rushing specialist.

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The top defensive end type is **Stirling Luckey** (6-4, 210, 4.65) of Harvey Thornton Township, Illinois. Another great pass rusher! He doesn't have the strength of Jones but



has great pursuit and a large wingspan for blocking passes at the line of scrimmage. Luckey has the frame to put on another 30 pounds and keep his speed.

If the signing period was today Luckey would be a Sooner.

"I'm leaning toward OU right now," says Luckey. "I really like the tradition at OU and how they play defense down there. I am also interested in Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado and Michigan."

Three great inside 'backers show up on the recruiters' lists out of this area. William Morris (6-2, 235, 4.7) out of Chicago Vocational played outside a year ago and managed over 80 tackles and 14 quarterback sacks. Playing with a broken hand this season, Morris has excelled from sideline to sideline. Morris is a confident, tenacious player who is extremely tough. The Sooners are hoping once again that the Chicago Vocational pipeline comes through while Colorado, Pitt and Illinois feel they have good shots at Morris as well.

Matt Russell (6-2, 237, 4.7) of Belleville East, Ill., is a complete player who doubles at tight end and inside linebacker. Russell is such a good athlete that he started at tight end as a freshman in high school in Washington D.C. before moving to Belleville. He led the team in tackles with 139. Ken Hatfield recruited Matt's brother Ken at Arkansas which gives Hatfield's current club, Clemson, the inside edge.

The only junior to make the all-state team a year ago was **Chris Koeppen** (6-



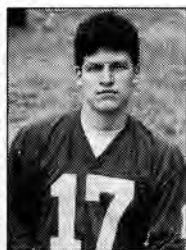


0, 225, 4.7) of Oaklawn (Richards), Ill. Koeppen reminds some people of Mike Singletary because of his short, powerful stature; an extremely quick and powerful player who can roam sideline to sideline. The Sooners are very much in the hunt for this outstanding prospect but will battle a couple of big boys for his services in Notre Dame, Michigan and Michigan State.

## SKILL POSITIONS

Skill position players normally take a back seat to the boys up front, but you can always come up with a couple that can contribute to your football team.

"The top running back in the state of Illinois is a kid by the name of **Conrad Coleman** (5-11, 180, 4.5) of Kankakee (Bradley), a suburb of Chicago," says Lemming. "In his first game this year he ran for 255 yards after rushing for 1600 yards a year ago. He runs a 10.7 100 meters with good size and power. He has a good package. After him there is a big drop off. There isn't a back that is drawing recruiters from outside the Big Ten."



"Chicago, this year, has fallen on hard times; there isn't one blue chip quarterback that I would even recommend for an All-Midwest team."

A sleeper to watch in the secondary is Kerwin Badie (5-11, 175, 4.45) of Bellwood (Proviso West), Ill. Great speed makes this raw talent a player to watch. Badie won the 100 and 200 meter state title as a junior. He has only played football for one season and he had a good year. Badie wants to learn the game and plays an aggressive brand of football in the secondary. Florida State and Florida lead at the moment with Notre Dame and Illinois also in the picture.

Chicago produces impact players. Watch this area closely as signing date approaches. Whichever school comes away with the major recruits here may not finish No. 1 in the recruiting ratings, but they may finish No. 1 and win a national championship before it is all over. ■

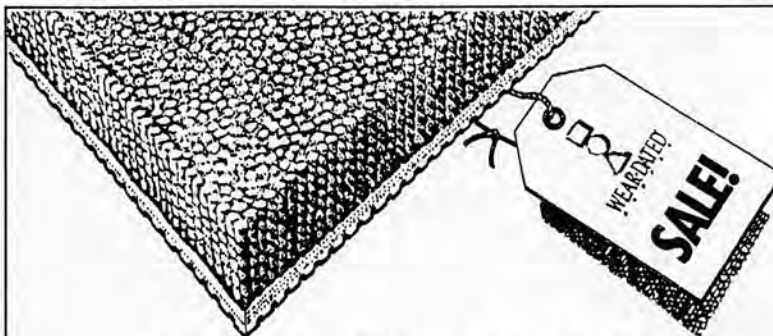
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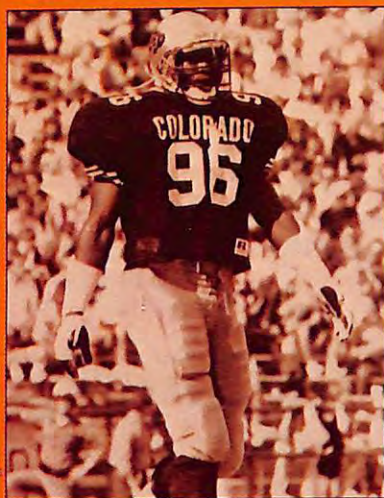
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**Kanavis McGhee**

## Buff 'twin terrors' take different paths

Alfred Williams and Kanavis McGhee were twin terrors while at Colorado and both were taken in the first round of the NFL draft last spring. Both were ticketed for stardom, but while Williams has been able to step right in with Cincinnati, McGhee has spent most of his time on the sidelines. Williams, who missed almost the entire training camp period while working out a contract, was in the starting lineup by Week Two and has remained there. He was tied for the team lead in sacks and fumble recoveries. McGhee was handed the unenviable position of backing up future Hall of Famer Lawrence Taylor and had not picked up a tackle in the first five weeks of the season.

**Alfred Williams**



## Stillwater/NFL connection

As it turns out, it was only logical that Barry Sanders should carry the ball for the Detroit Lions. He is the eighth winner of college football's premiere award to play in the Motor City. Sanders joins Fran Sinkwich (Georgia, 1942), Doak Walker (SMU, 1948), Leon Hart (Notre Dame, 1949), Howard "Hopalong" Cassidy (Ohio State, 1955), Steve Owens (Oklahoma, 1969), Billy Sims (Oklahoma, 1978) and Andre Ware (Houston, 1990) on the Lions' list of Heisman winners.

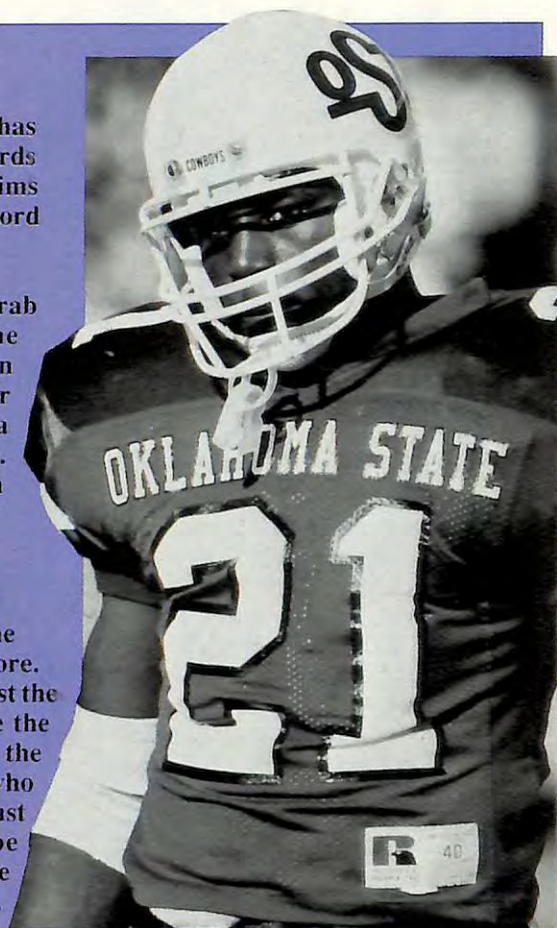
### More Barry

With a spectacular 160-yard, three touchdown effort against Tampa Bay in Week Five, Sanders once again confirmed that as he goes, so go the Lions. Through five games, the only blemish on the surprising Lions' record was a 45-0 pasting by Washington the opening week when he was sidelined with an injury. Some members of his own team grumbled about his absence, but after piling up 526 yards rushing the the next four games, the only grumbles are coming

from the opposition. He has already rushed for 3,300 yards in his short career. Billy Sims holds the Lions' career record with 5,106.

### The "Other" Back

While Sanders may grab more headlines in some circles, no one in northern New York would vote for him as the top Oklahoma State runner in the league. These votes would go en masse to the Bills' Thurman Thomas. How valuable is Thomas to the Bills? The Bills have been automatic at home when he rushes for 100 yards or more. His 117-yard output against the Bears in Week Five made the Bills 15-0 when he tops the century mark. Thomas, who entered the year needing just 1,024 yards to pass Joe Cribbs for second on the Bills' career rushing chart. First place, however, belongs to some guy with the initials "O.J." who played a few years in a Bills' uniform.

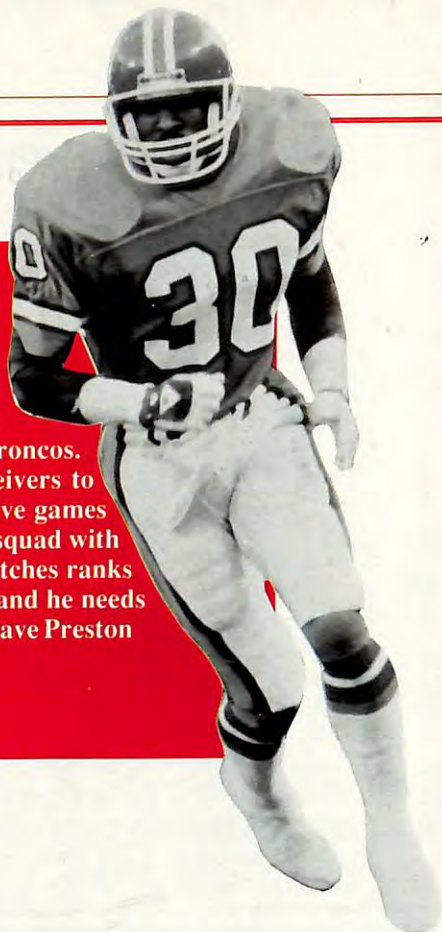


**Thurman Thomas (top left) and Barry Sanders (above).**



## Sewell keeps on catching records

Former Oklahoma running back Steve Sewell continues to show his versatility with the Broncos. Sewell is one of four Denver receivers to catch a pass in each of the first five games and he was tied for second on the squad with 11 catches on the year. His 160 catches ranks 15th on the Bronco's all-time list and he needs just two more grabs to move past Dave Preston for 14th place.



## Walker, Croel shining in Bronco wins

After five weeks of the NFL season, the Denver Broncos continue to confound the experts who had predicted a less-than-glorious 1991 campaign even before all-everything running back Bobby Humphrey decided to hold out. But with a 4-1 record through Week Five, the Broncos were within one win of matching their 1990 final win total. The wins haven't always been things of beauty, but not one of the thousands of orange-clad Bronco fanatics has expressed any desire to trade one in.

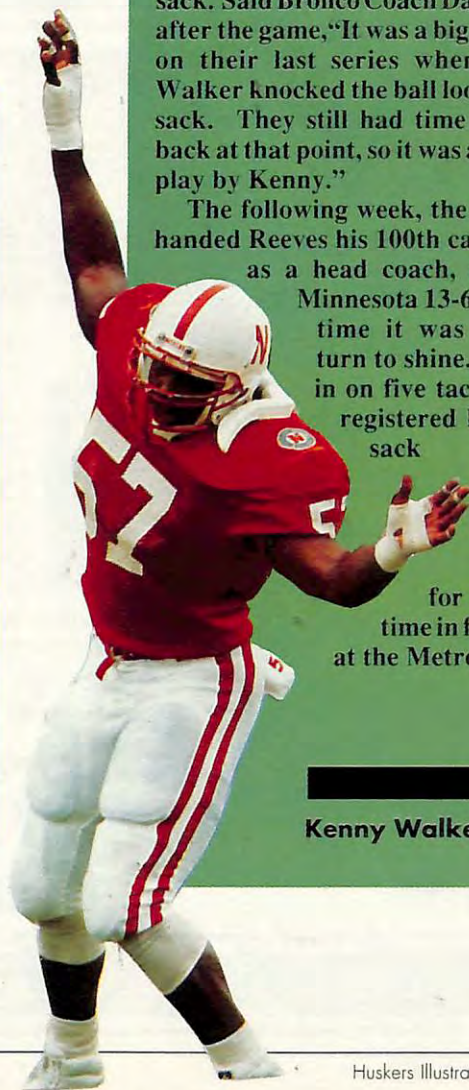
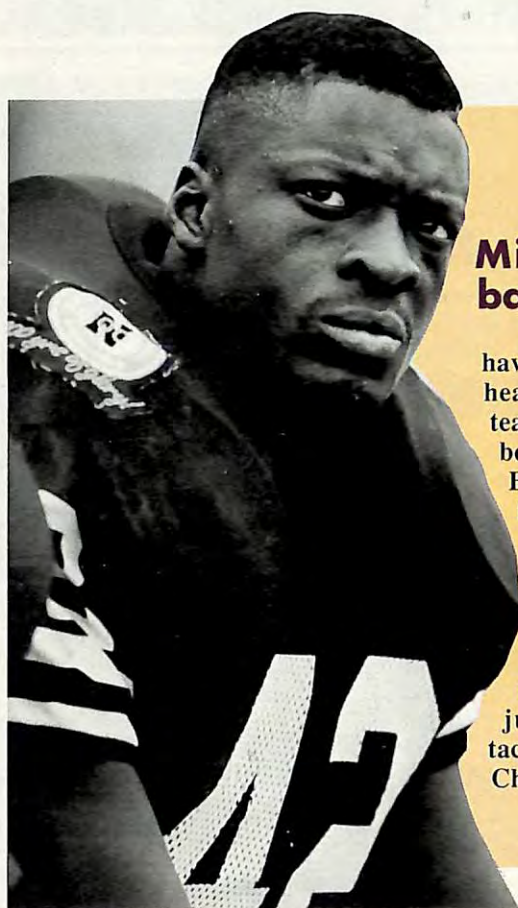
One of the biggest factors in the Broncos resurgence has come on defense, where rookies Kenny Walker and Mike Croel continue to shine. Walker was awarded his first game ball after Denver's 27-19 victory over San Diego in Week Four. Walker ended a last-gasp Charger drive when he forced a fumble with his first NFL sack. Said Bronco Coach Dan Reeves after the game, "It was a big, big play on their last series when Kenny Walker knocked the ball loose on his sack. They still had time to come back at that point, so it was a real big play by Kenny."

The following week, the Broncos handed Reeves his 100th career win as a head coach, downing Minnesota 13-6 and this time it was Croel's turn to shine. He was in on five tackles and registered his third sack of the year as Denver won for the first time in four tries at the Metrodome.

**Kenny Walker**

## Mills bouncing back in Denver

While Walker and Croel have garnered most of the headlines, former Husker teammate Jeff Mills has also been a contributor to the Broncos' success. While backing up Croel at right outside linebacker, Mills has been a special teams star. He had five special teams tackles in the first three games to tie for third on the club. He had just one special teams tackle last season with the Chargers.







## Skating on thin ice

After watching from the sidelines for the first four weeks, Mike Rozier finally got a chance to carry the ball during the Falcons' loss at New Orleans in Week Five. Rozier rushed for 16 yards on four carries in the game. Word out of Atlanta is that the Falcon brass is livid with Rozier for showing up so out-of-shape after his annual holdout. Barring a sudden change of heart or 1,000 yard season, this will be his last year in Atlanta.

Brian Washington

## Two efforts come up short

At the time it looked like former Husker Brian Washington had made the play of the game when he stopped the Bears' Jim Harbaugh at the goal line with less than two minutes to play in the "Monday Night" game of week four. But a Blair Thomas fumble gave the Bears the ball right back and they eventually pulled out a thriller in overtime. As for Broderick Thomas, he picked a day when Barry Sanders was running roughshod through his Buccaneer teammates to have his best day as a pro. He was in on 11 tackles (three better than his previous career best), and was credited with one sack.

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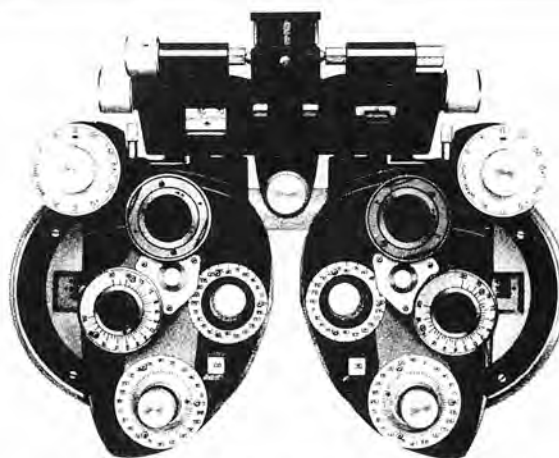


## Back to none

The conference lost its lone quarterback in the league when Rusty Hilger was cut by the Seahawks after Kelly Stouffer was activated from the injured list. Hilger has not thrown a pass in an NFL game since 1988. He was out of football in 1989 and then spent all of last season as a reserve with the Colts.

## Around the league . .

**Eric Bieniemy**, a second round pick of the Chargers, has seen limited action so far other than on special teams... Former Sooner running back **Marcus Dupree** was activated off the injured list and has been signed to the Rams' practice squad... **Scott Evans** is on the Cardinals' practice squad... Another former Sooner, **Chuck Thomas**, was activated by the 49ers... **Reggie Cooper** (Nebraska) and **Damon Mays** (Missouri) were added to the Cowboys' practice roster... **Darrell Wallace** (Missouri) was added to the Lions' practice club... **Tom Backes** (Oklahoma) was added to the Bears' practice roster. ■



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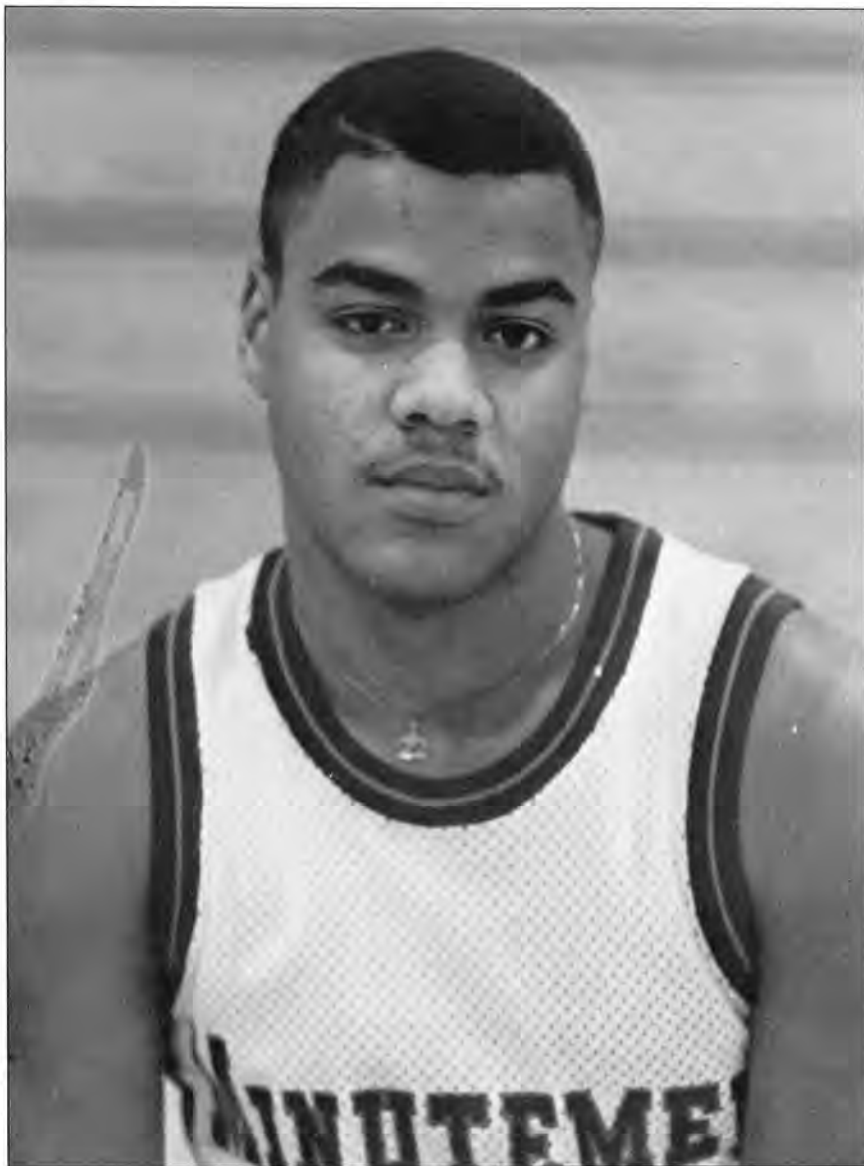
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## JJ's Turn

more importantly, kept as busy as possible. He concentrated on his schoolwork, lifted weights regularly, attended the home basketball games, maintained close communication with the coaches and players and shot around on his own as often as possible.

For competition to keep his skills from eroding, he played on a university intramural basketball team that included former Nebraska football player Kenny Walker.

Instead of bemoaning his situation, Johnson made the most of it.

"There are two ways to go," he said. And he chose the positive.

"What happened last year gave me a perspective on life, that there is life after basketball and that basketball is going to come to an end."

Johnson understood the value of an education from the beginning, one of the main reasons he chose Nebraska over the many other schools that recruited him. He was impressed by Nebraska's facilities, its academic counseling program and the interest the Cornhuskers coaches took in him.

Nebraska Assistant Coach Lynn Mitchem first spotted Johnson at an all-star camp during the summer before his sophomore year in high school and the Cornhuskers never lost interest.

Mitchem told Johnson's high school coaches that he'd be back in two years to sign Johnson. And that's what happened. Johnson signed a letter of intent with Nebraska in November of 1989, during the early-signing period.

Johnson knew at the inking he probably wouldn't meet the Prop 48 requirements. So did Cornhusker Coach Danny Nee, which is why Johnson crossed the other schools off his list.

Most coaches wanted to wait to be sure about Johnson's eligibility before committing a scholarship. "You could tell they were only interested in me as a basketball player," said Johnson. "When they found out I probably wouldn't be able to play (as a freshman), they lost interest."

"They didn't want to waste their time and money. It really showed what other coaches wanted."

Every day during the summer, long about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, Jamar Johnson went to a playground near his home in Elkhart, Ind. and played basketball - every day.

"That's where I worked out, pretty much on my own," said Johnson, Nebraska's sophomore point guard.

He didn't play in the city's organized leagues, fearing he might jeopardize his eligibility. That could have happened if the leagues weren't properly sanctioned by the NCAA and Johnson wasn't taking any chances. Not after sitting out a season already.

Johnson was a freshman at Nebraska last season, but because he failed to meet freshman eligibility requirements under the NCAA's Proposition 48, he couldn't play or practice with the team.

While the Cornhuskers were win-

ning 26 of 34 games and representing Nebraska in the NCAA Tournament for the second time in school history, Johnson was forced to watch from the sideline. "It was tough," he said. "Often, I felt like I was left out and that I didn't mean anything to the team."

In addition, there was a stigma to being a non-qualifier under Prop 48. People would ask why he wasn't playing and he would tell them, "'I'm a Prop 48.' And it felt bad. You don't know what people are thinking about you when you tell them something like that."

Carrying such a label around compounded the problems every college freshman faces. It's easy to go into an emotional slump and "once you get in that negative state of mind, it's hard to get out," Johnson said.

So Johnson remained optimistic and





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Johnson's first insight into that attitude came during recruiting visits. Nee emphasized Nebraska's academic support system, while "other coaches never really mentioned much about academics," Johnson said.

"It was like, 'We've got good academics.' Then, boom, it was back to talking about basketball."

Johnson's belief that he had made the right choice was confirmed the summer before his freshman year at Nebraska when he learned for sure that he wouldn't be eligible.

"When I told Coach Nee, he said I should still come, sit out a season and then have three years to play. He was still interested in me," said Johnson. "He could have said, 'Go to a junior college, and we'll come and get you there.' But that wouldn't have been the same. He cared."

Nee also realized Johnson's ability was worth waiting for. Johnson was a three-year starter at Elkhart's Concord High. His sophomore year, Johnson joined Shawn Kemp — now of the NBA's Seattle SuperSonics — in leading Concord to a 28-1 record.

Johnson was first-team All-Indiana as a senior after averaging 19.3 points per game for a team that didn't lose until the state finals. Concord High was the state's No. 1-ranked team the last five weeks of the regular season.

The team to which Concord lost included Damon Bailey, the state's Mr. Basketball. Bailey went to Indiana, where he played as a freshman.

During one of his weekly news conferences last season, Nee compared Bailey and Johnson, who was a runner-up for the Mr. Basketball award. "I think we got the better end of the deal," said Nee. "Friends of mine who are very knowledgeable about basketball in Indiana felt that by the end of the season, Jamar was the best player."

Johnson dismissed the comparison. "I didn't know he said that," Johnson said. "I just try to do the best I can. I wouldn't know who to pick if I were going to compare myself to somebody. I just want people to say that I'm hard-working and that I have a good attitude."

Johnson did more than shoot baskets and play in pickup games over the summer. "I'm trying to take a mental approach," he said.

He learned something about that from playing with, and watching, Kemp, who also returned to Elkhart.

"Shawn's got a lot of heart and a lot



of desire. When you take the time, you can see his maturity level. He's the same guy he always was. He hasn't forgotten where he came from," Johnson said. "Shawn's got his perspective right."

That's how Kemp, who won't celebrate his 22nd birthday until November, has been able to succeed in the NBA without playing in college.

Kemp signed a letter of intent with Kentucky and enrolled, however, problems arose and Kemp never played a second of college ball, which meant he understood something of what Johnson had to deal with last year. The two "talked a lot," said Johnson, and it helped him get through.

With Kemp's encouragement, the support of his parents and the sincere interest the Nebraska coaches took in him, he had no choice but to stick it out. "It's been a long time coming, but I can see the light at the end of the tunnel now."

The pressure isn't gone, however. Nee is counting on Johnson as the Cornhuskers' point guard.

Johnson is quick to point out that 6-foot-7 Michael Hughes, a transfer from Southeastern Iowa Community College, is capable of playing point guard as well as forward. But even if Hughes couldn't, the pressure wouldn't bother him, Johnson said.

"It's going to be tough at first. It's my first year of playing, and we've got seniors to count on for leadership. But I like challenges and when I'm on the floor, the pressure doesn't really scare me."

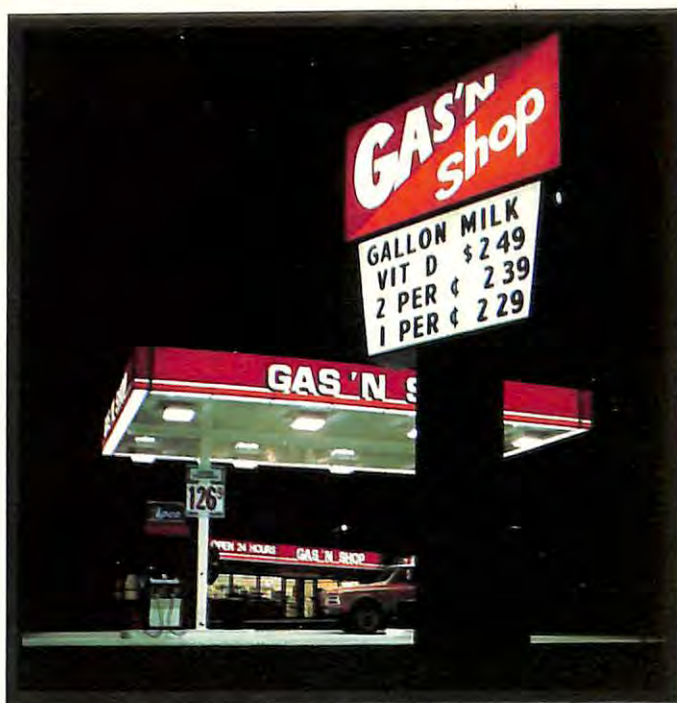
As he seems to be with everything else, Johnson is optimistic about Nebraska's chances of being successful again this season, despite the Cornhuskers' low numbers and the loss of several key players.

Last season's success is bound to carry over, according to Johnson.

"It's important to us. It was a stepping stone. The players coming back know what it takes to win," he said. "They've got the feeling. We're at the base of the mountain. Now all we've got to do is start climbing."

According to the Oct. 1, 1991, issue of *Basketball Times*, the Big Eight is the toughest basketball conference in the nation.

The annual *Basketball Times*' survey of conferences is based on Dick Dunkel's power rating system. Nebraska was fourth in the Big Eight behind OSU, Kansas and OU. ■



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## View From South Stadium

Last week the NFL modified its penalties regarding endzone celebrations because of the flack it had received for taking the show out of the game. Even though the NFL has loosened its grip on the dances and taunting, we will probably never get the chance to watch the Ickey Shuffle or the Nestea Plunge. I think that is a shame because it is that sportsmanship that set the NFL apart from other sports.

What I was wondering is what you think of banning endzone or on-field celebrations in the NFL. I'd also like to know your feelings on the same going on in college football. I'm not saying it has to go to the extreme that the Miami Hurricanes took it last year, but there must be some middle ground. Bob Carlson  
Omaha, Neb.

**Osborne:** *I can't speak much for the NFL, but I will tell you my feelings about celebrations in college football. I don't mind players who play with enthusiasm, but in the past few years some of the celebrations in college football became close to taunting.*

*Players should be allowed to celebrate with their teammates after good*

*plays, but in a manner that is in good taste and respectful of the opponent. The new rule implemented this year affecting celebrations was put in place because some teams were getting out of hand with their celebrating.*

Every Saturday, we Husker faithful, sit in our seats and watch your week of practice pay off as you execute your game plans on the girdiron to perfection. But while we see the final result, we don't know how you arrive at that point. Can you tell me what you and your coaching staff go through during the week. I'd like to know how you scout teams, diagram plays and work your practices. Hopefully you can answer this without giving away too many secrets. Steve Pini  
Lincoln, Neb.

**Osborne:** *Weekly preparation for our opponents is fairly extensive. The amount of time our coaches spend*



*meeting and preparing for a game is probably 80 hours a week. We set up video tape exchanges of our games with our opponents. This helps us in scouting what they do offensively and defensively. Sundays are spent reviewing the previous game and developing the scouting report and game plan for our upcoming opponent. Monday through Friday we start the day with a 7 a.m. staff meeting, review video tape of the previous days practice and make the practice schedule for that day. We also meet with our players anywhere from 1 1/2 to 2 hours before practice.*

*That is a general definition of our weekly schedule during the season. I would have to write much more if I got into the specific steps of developing a game plan and game preparation.*

Coach, over the last decade or two Nebraska has fielded some of the greatest players in college football. You've had greats in the backfield like Roger Craig, Mike Rozier and Tom Rathman and equally athletic receivers like Irving Fryar and Dana Brinson. But if you had to go with your all-star offensive set, who would be on the team? Paul Grime  
Oklahoma City, Okla.

**Osborne:** *I never like to pick an all-star team because we have had so many players who have played valuable roles in the success of our program. To pick 11 offensive players who have been the best at Nebraska would be very hard hard.*

*If you have questions for Coach Osborne, please address them to View From South Stadium, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501. ■*



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